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Reunited and it feels so good

Chloe the stolen French bulldog is returned to her owner after being picked up in Abbotsford PAGE 4

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE VIEW

GOOGLE MAP'S STREET VIEW OFFERS THE CHANCE TO TIME TRAVEL (TO 2007)

PAGE 10

Homeless count doubles

On the streets.
Setback in ongoing quest to house Vancouver's vulnerable 'needs to wake all of us up,' says mayor

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

A person sleeps rough in the Downtown Eastside on Wednesday. The homeless count found that 538 people had no shelter on March 12.
MATT DESOUZA/FOR METRO

The number of people sleeping on Vancouver's streets soared over the past 12 months while homelessness remained fairly stable across the rest of Metro Vancouver.

Almost twice as many people — 538 compared to 273 in 2013 — had no shelter in Vancouver on March 12, the day of the 2014 Metro Vancouver homeless count.

The 24-hour snapshot of those without a home, conducted every three years in Metro Vancouver and every year in Vancouver, aims to count people sleeping on the streets and in shelters, hospital beds, jails, detox facilities or safe houses. It underestimates the total number of homeless people but provides important trend information.

Volunteers found 2,770 people without homes across the region, a slight increase from the 2,650 counted in 2011. Only Vancouver and the North Shore had more people sleeping outdoors.

"We've stemmed that rapid increase we saw in the mid-2000s," said Deb Bryant of the Greater Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness at a news conference. "The picture isn't fabulous, but at least we're sort of holding."

The same can't be said for Vancouver, where 1,798 people were without homes in 2014 after about six years of the number remaining steady around 1,600.

Mayor Gregor Robertson, who campaigned in the 2011 election with a promise to end street homelessness by 2015, was frustrated to see the numbers. The city and the province have spent millions buying housing for people at 14 B.C. Housing sites and a few interim housing locations.

"It's disconcerting to see the number back up this year," Robertson said. "This should be a catalyst. It needs to wake all of us up, and the provincial and federal government (need) to step up with us and make sure we can bring that number right down to zero for next winter."

He blamed the increase on delays in the opening of B.C. Housing sites, fewer winter shelter beds and renovictions from single-room-occupancy hotels.

But about 600 units are expected to open at five remaining B.C. Housing sites before December, so Robertson is hopeful the numbers will drop next year. He remains "steadfastly committed to making sure every citizen can get off the streets at night" despite this year's setbacks.

He credited a "strong partnership" with the province and Housing Minister Rich Coleman for improvements since 2008 and called for commitments for more buildings or a more robust rent-supplement program.

Robertson also called on the federal government to continue with the At Home/Chez Soi program, a study that provided housing first for people with mental illnesses.

The count also found a disproportionately high number of aboriginal people without home. Nearly a third of the homeless people identified as aboriginal, compared with about two per cent of the general population.

This brought an emotional response from Patrick Stewart of the aboriginal homelessness steering committee.

"I'm no politician, but in a country as rich as Canada there's no need to have people living on the street," he said, calling for a federal solution and culturally appropriate permanent housing.

In the meantime, however, people are getting turned away every night because the beds are full at the aboriginal shelter near Science World.

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Skydiving accident victim back in Canada

'Very delicate' flight. Woman still faces American medical bills that have climbed to at least $500,000

THANDI FLETCHER
vancouver@metronews.ca

Although she still faces a long road to recovery, the family and friends of a B.C. woman wounded in a skydiving accident in Arizona are relieved she is finally back in Canada.

Kenzie Markey, 32, of Squamish is now being treated at Vancouver's Lions Gate Hospital after she was airlifted from Phoenix on Tuesday, her longtime friend Kelley Richardson told Metro.

"Just to have her here, that's a massive hurdle to overcome," said Richardson. "We are so grateful for everyone's support."

Markey was seriously injured on April 6 in a skydiving accident near Phoenix. The veteran skydiver was on her final jump of the day when her parachute collapsed, sending her plummeting to the ground. Markey — who suffered a broken leg, foot, pelvis, skull, eye socket, nose and a collapsed lung — spent more than two weeks recovering at the Chandler Regional Medical Centre near Phoenix.

She now faces at least $500,000 in U.S. medical bills. Although she had travel insurance, Richardson said her plan did not cover hazardous activities like skydiving.

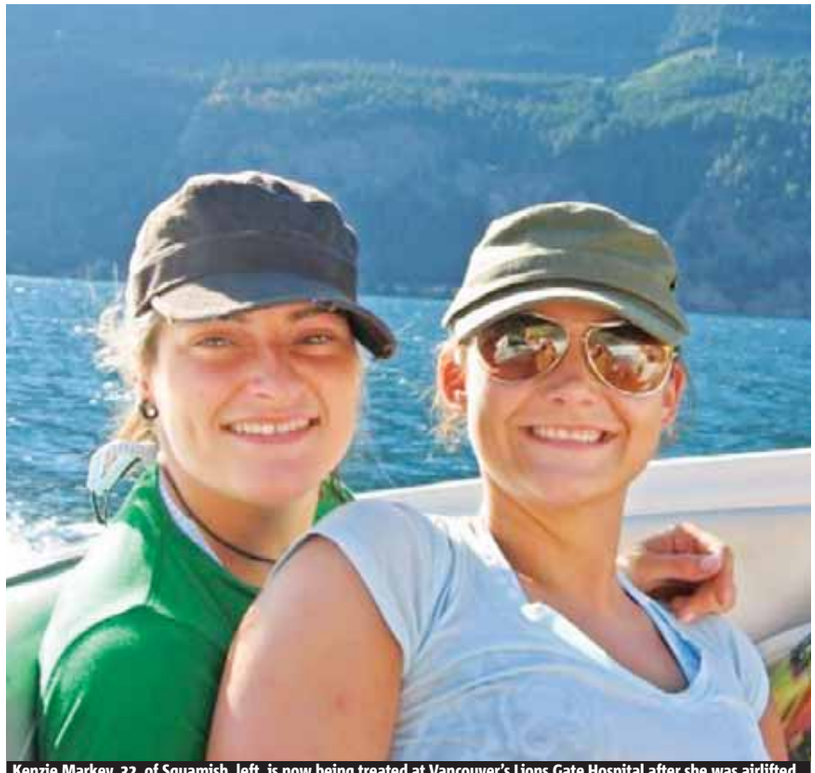
Vancouver-based company Executive Air Ambulance transported Markey from Phoenix to Vancouver. The three-hour flight cost about $22,000, said operations manager Malcolm Biddell.

With her extensive injuries, Biddell said Markey's transfer was "very delicate."

Money raised through an online crowdfunding campaign formed to help cover Markey's medical bills will be put toward the air ambulance.

As of Wednesday, the campaign has brought in $19,920. For now, Markey's father has taken out a line of credit to pay for the flight, said Richardson.

A Ministry of Health spokeswoman said B.C.'s Medical Services Plan will help pay for some of Markey's medical costs, up to the amount payable if the same services had been performed in B.C.



Kenzie Markey, 32, of Squamish, left, is now being treated at Vancouver's Lions Gate Hospital after she was airlifted from Phoenix on Tuesday. COURTESY KELLEY RICHARDSON

Card skimmers found on parking pay stations

A card skimmer. CONTRIBUTED

New Westminster staff will conduct daily inspections of city-owned parking pay stations after hard-to-spot card skimmers stole credit-card information from at least one resident this week.

A woman reported her card had been compromised after using a parking pay station on Tuesday.

A subsequent New Westminster police investigation found card skimmers affixed to two pay stations in the eastern part of the city. These particular skimmers are flat plates that appear almost identical to the actual machines attached over the card reading spot.

The city's engineering team inspected all city-owned parking pay stations and didn't find any additional theft devices but will continue inspections to ensure the safety of its machines.

The city also contacted the pay station manufacturer so it can work on ways to stop such card skimmers.

Anyone who recently used a parking pay station in New Westminster is encouraged to check their credit-card bills carefully and contact police if they discover anything fishy.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Aydin Coban

Extradition in Amanda Todd case may come before trial in Netherlands

A Dutch man accused of surreptitiously capturing webcam footage of teen Amanda Todd, as well as dozens of other victims around the world, won't necessarily have to wait until after his trial in his home country before facing possible extradition to Canada, Holland's prosecution service says.

Aydin Coban, 35, is in a Dutch jail accused of using the Internet to target teen girls and adult men in several countries, including Canada. He was arrested in January in Oisterwijk, located in southern Holland.

Coban was charged last week in B.C. in connection with Todd, a 15-year-old girl from Port Coquitlam who took her own life after she was sexually exploited online.

He is accused of extortion, Internet luring, criminal harassment and two counts relating to child pornography in the Todd case.

The province's criminal justice branch plans to ask the federal government to request extradition, though the Crown has cautioned such a process would likely have to wait until Coban's trial is finished in Holland.

But Paul van der Zanden, a spokesman for the Dutch public prosecution service, said Dutch authorities won't necessarily insist on putting Coban on trial in their country first.

"While we are waiting for a formal request, the Dutch investigation and the Dutch trial will go on," van der Zanden said in an interview.

"There is a chance that he will stand trial in the Netherlands first before the request for extradition is approved, but it's something that's still in the future."

Van der Zanden said police have identified other potential victims in Canada as well. He couldn't provide an exact number but said there were fewer than 10.

Coban's lawyer has suggested the prosecution's case is thin. Under Dutch law, suspects are not formally charged until closer to trial, and Coban has not entered a plea or responded to the allegations in court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stolen dog reunited with owner

Chloe & co. Pet was found wandering in neighbourhood

Chloe the stolen French bulldog has been reunited with her owner.

On Wednesday, Vancouver police announced that animal-control officers in Abbotsford had picked up the 10-month-old puppy.

The dog was found wandering around a residential neighbourhood on Tuesday before being taken to the Fraser Valley Regional District Animal Control office, Sgt. Randy Fincham said.

Police travelled to the animal shelter and confirmed the dog was Chloe. They alerted the dog's owner on Wednesday morning, Fincham said.

"The owner was elated to learn that the dog had been found," Fincham said. "Chloe is in good condition."

Chloe was stolen from a downtown Vancouver tattoo parlour on April 17 at 6:45 p.m., according to police. Security cameras captured a woman holding the dog and slowly walking toward the door before running out the exit where a vehicle was waiting in front of the shop. Staff chased her but were unable to catch the car.

The dog's owner Shaughnessy Keely, who works at Fall Tattooing on Seymour Street, posted a link to the video online, sparking intense public reaction from social media users around the world.

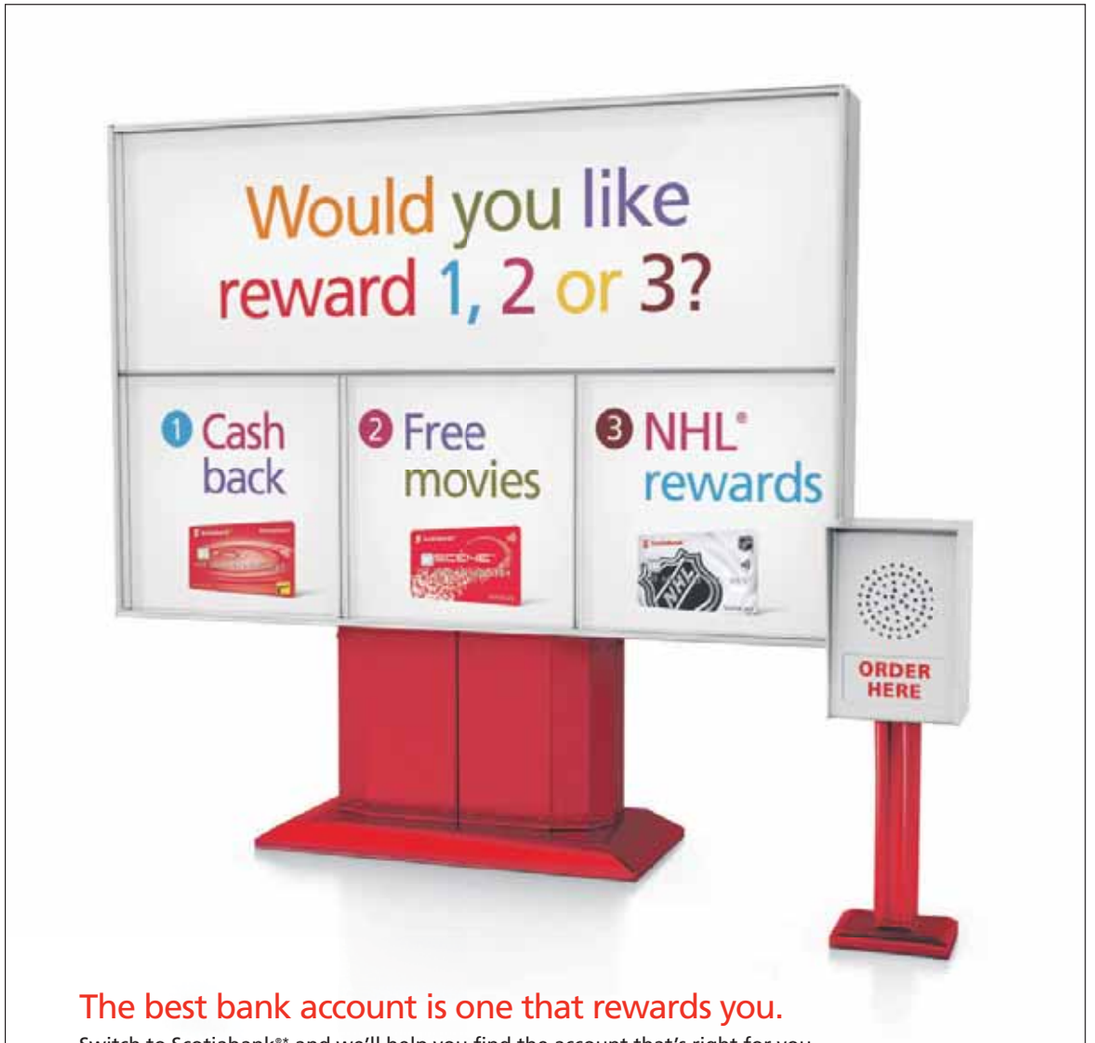
Now that Chloe has been safely returned to her rightful owner, Fincham said, police are continuing their investigation and are looking at possible criminal charges.

Early in the investigation, Fincham said police identified the alleged thief. Further investigation revealed that Chloe's theft might stem from a dispute between an employee and the dog's owner.

Chloe's owner could not immediately be reached for comment Wednesday.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Chloe the 10-month-old French bulldog was reunited with her owner after six days. INSTAGRAM: SHAUGHNESSY



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South Van. B.C. funds extra $1.2M for seniors centre

South Vancouver seniors are finally flush with government cash to build a long-awaited seniors centre.

The province promised an additional $1.2 million for the project on Wednesday on top of $1.3 million it gave last year.

"I'm very pleased that my government was able to step up and provide for the seniors living in this area," MLA Suzanne Anton announced at the Killarney community centre on Wednesday. "This will be a wonderful facility for seniors to get out and participate in social activities and be active in our community."

This boosts total government funding for the Killarney seniors centre to $8.7 million, more than the $7.5 million the seniors originally asked for more than a decade ago.

For years, the community pleaded with politicians to help fund a seniors centre in the neighbourhood home to more than 27,000 seniors. At the start of 2014, they had only received land and $3.8 million from the city and province.

But their luck quickly changed for the best, with the municipal, provincial and federal governments all forking over more cash this year.

The city earmarked another $1.2 million for the project in January from the 2013 operating surplus and still intends to spend it on the centre despite the extra provincial money, Coun. Raymond Louie said.

"My intention is to keep that available in order to build the best facility possible, including the kitchen," Louie said.

Regardless of the politics behind the influx of cash, South Vancouver seniors are thrilled to finally get the ball rolling on a centre.

"It is a great relief to know that our governments, at all levels, recognize the importance of seniors' well being," said Lorna Gibbs, president of the Southeast Vancouver Seniors' Arts and Cultural Society. "We can't wait to get started on the design phase of the project."

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

No recess

Job action affects play action

Job action by teachers wasn't supposed to affect students, but about 10 school districts cancelled recess on the first day of a limited strike across B.C.

B.C. Teachers Federation president Jim Iker says districts who took the inappropriate step of cancelling recess should reconsider because principals and excluded staff can supervise students for 15 minutes a day. He says they didn't even try to find coverage for recess but cancelled it because it's inconvenient for principals and management. Iker says the first stage should not directly impact students. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grand Forks

Health-care worker fired for flouting policy

A B.C. health-care employee who refused to get a flu shot or wear a mask was fired for failing to follow a government policy.

Interior Health spokesman John Bevanda says the activity worker in Grand Forks was terminated after progressive disciplinary measures that typically involve a warning letter, a one- to three-day suspension and meetings in the presence of a union representative.

Bevanda says activity workers' jobs involve transporting patients in clinics or adult day programs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City votes. Surrey to hire 95 cops over five years

Surrey will soon see 95 new RCMP officers on its streets.

The city voted Wednesday in favour of a new five-year plan that will see it hire 95 new officers — instead of the previously planned 60 — in an effort to disrupt criminal activity.

The RCMP were conducting their own operational review last year but a record-high 25 homicides in 2013 spurred the city into immediate action.

Both RCMP and the mayor's task force recommended an increase of 95 officers to tackle crime, with the money being saved from other efficiencies within the department.

The city had originally planned to hire 60 officers, slowly adding 12 officers each year over the five-year plan.

But in hiring the 95 officers, the city will be able to dictate how many are hired at a time — allowing it to bulk up quicker as resources allow.

"This pledge to increase the number of RCMP officers in Surrey is a continuation of the work we started in October of 2013 to disrupt criminal activity in our city," said Mayor Dianne Watts in a statement. "Public safety remains my top priority and the actions we have taken today show that council and I will continue our policy to confront and disrupt criminal activity in Surrey."

Other measures being taken by the city includes changing community safety officers to community constables, a designation which would allow them to make arrests and carry a firearm.

Twenty community safety patrol personnel, staffed by B.C. Commissionaires, will also be deployed in the Newton Town Centre area.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Online. Is the government spying on you? The BCCLA will help you find out

If you're worried about The Man keeping tabs on you, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association has the guide for you.

The BCCLA, which recently filed complaints against the RCMP and CSIS for allegedly monitoring the activity of community groups opposed to the Enbridge Northern Gateway project, launched resources on its website Wednesday that allows users to find out what information, if any, government authorities are collecting on them.

"We have received many requests from people to help them understand how to find out whether the government has got a file on them," said BCCLA counsel Raji Mangat in a statement.

"We hope that this will help them to find that out. We have a right to know what information our government is collecting about us, especially when it affects our ability to engage in democratic activities."

The step-by-step guide, at bccla.org/whatdotheyknow, helps people file access to record and Freedom of Information requests to a number of provincial and federal bodies under privacy acts.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Parents seek medical pot for epileptic child

Charlotte's Web. This particular strain of marijuana has been known to help kids in the U.S., but remains illegal north of the border

Courtney Williams of Summerland bottle feeds daughter Kyla, who suffers from epilepsy in this undated photo.
JAMES MILLER/PENTICTON HERALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a retired police officer from Summerland left his job after 25 years, he hardly imagined fighting for his little granddaughter to be given marijuana.

Chris Nuessler, along with his wife Elaine, wants Canada to allow two-year-old Kyla Williams to be given a form of medical marijuana known to prevent seizures resulting from epilepsy.

The girl's parents, Jared and Courtney Williams, along with the Nuesslers, have been researching medical pot use and speaking with experts to build what they're calling "Kyla's medical team."

They say Kyla has suffered severe side effects from prescription drugs when she could be helped like other children in the United States.

A strain of marijuana commonly called Charlotte's Web has been known to help kids in the U.S., but it's illegal in Canada.

It contains very little THC, which provides the buzz recreational pot users crave, and is mostly made up of CBD, which limits the severity and frequency of seizures.

Kyla appeared to be a healthy, little girl for the first six months of her life until her mother noticed she wasn't progressing at a normal rate and had unusual eye movements.

After she was seen by a pediatrician, Kyla was rushed to BC Children's Hospital, where she was diagnosed with retractable seizure disorder.

Over the next year, the little girl was placed on a series of prescription drug mixtures, received steroid shots and was given a high fat diet.

She even developed a kidney stone. Some of the drugs had brutal side effects and she was averaging 100 seizures a day, her grandparents said.

"The drugs aren't really working and we were told there's really nowhere she can go," Elaine Nuessler said.

"She's down to her last drug. She may seizure for the rest of her very short life."

In March, Kyla's mother and grandmother made a trip to Vancouver and were told Kyla's life expectancy would be short.

"We both cried all the way home from Vancouver," Courtney Williams said.

The next day, Courtney's 91-year-old grandfather called to tell her he'd seen a CNN report on Charlotte's Web and how it's been known to help children with cancer and epilepsy.

"Her development was so similar to so many of the kids who have been helped by cannabis," Elaine Nuessler said.

They say they've spoken with leading experts in the field, including Figi's doctor, and have even considered moving to Colorado, where marijuana is available.

Growing pot themselves is not an option because it requires detailed chemistry to create Charlotte's Web.

The family said they want to try the marijuana to see how it will work for Kyla and understand that there are no guarantees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Moving oil. Kitimat council rejects Enbridge pipeline proposal, mulls Black's refinery plan

Councillors in Kitimat have voted to officially oppose the Northern Gateway pipeline project — but they aren't rejecting further plans to move Alberta oil through the region.

A lengthy debate ended Tuesday with councillors voting 4 to 1 in favour of the motion to reject support for Enbridge's $6-billion pipeline proposal.

The vote followed an unofficial plebiscite in the northwestern B.C. municipality that suggested roughly 60 per cent of citizens oppose the pipeline.

While refusing support for Enbridge, several councillors say newspaper mogul David Black's proposed refinery north of Kitimat is a viable alternative to the plan to pipe Alberta bitumen across B.C. and load it onto tankers for shipment overseas.

Coun. Mario Feldhoff says Black's proposal cuts the risk of a catastrophic spill in the Kitimat River and Douglas Channel while offering the potential of as many as 3,000 direct, ongoing refinery jobs.

Black believes his $26-billion refinery would remove the need to transport diluted bitumen by tanker but warned Kitimat council last November that some Enbridge partners aren't on board. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A better alternative?

3,000

Coun. Mario Feldhoff says newspaper mogul David Black's proposed refinery north of Kitimat cuts the risk of a catastrophic spill in the Kitimat River and Douglas Channel while offering the potential of as many as 3,000 direct, ongoing refinery jobs.

Steal of a deal at VPD's recovered goods auction

I once was lost but now am found ... on the bidding block.
Stolen items recovered by police include bikes, jewelry and tools

MATT DESOUZA
vancouver@metronews.ca

Between 300 and 400 bicycles will be auctioned off at the VPD's recovered goods auction this weekend. MATT DESOUZA/FOR METRO

Looking to get your hands on some lightly used merchandise at a steal of a price? Then the Vancouver police recovered-goods auction this weekend is the place to be.

Hundreds of bikes, power tools, electronics, clothing, jewelry and much more will be up for grabs (to the highest bidder) this Saturday at Able Auctions, 1055 Vernon Dr.

"Everything that is being sold this Saturday has been stolen, recovered by the VPD and will now be sold to the general public," says Jeremy Dodd of Able Auctions.

"Everything from about 300 to 400 bikes to jewelry, bracelets, watches, pearls, to tools, band equipment, guitars, all kinds of stuff. Everything and anything stolen is here."

The auction gets underway at 9 a.m. and will cost you $10 to get inside.

"It's like any auction: you pay too much for some things, and for others, you steal 'em. It just depends who's here on the day and who wants what."

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Paramedics treat drunk teen at PM's residence: Reports

'Not a police matter.' Ambulance sent to 24 Sussex Drive on night PM's son was believed to be celebrating 18th birthday

Prime Minister Stephen Harper addresses media outside 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa in 2007. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The RCMP is confirming that paramedics were called to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's residence early Sunday morning amid media reports that an 18-year-old woman was severely intoxicated.

In a statement, RCMP spokesperson Cpl. Lucy Shorey said an ambulance responded to 24 Sussex Drive. She did not describe the nature of the call, but said it did not involve Harper or his family.

"This was a medical call and not a police matter. It did not involve any of our protectees," Shorey said in a statement.

A Quebec radio station reported that the emergency call involved an intoxicated 18-year-old woman, who was taken to hospital.

J.P. Trottier, a spokesperson for the Ottawa Paramedic Service, confirmed that paramedics took a patient to hospital, but said he could not provide details about the gender, age or condition because of patient confidentiality.

"Because of the potential identification of the patient, we can't talk about it," he said in an interview.

It's believed that Harper's son Ben celebrated his 18th birthday on Saturday. Harper and wife Laureen also have a daughter, Rachel, who is three years younger.

Jason MacDonald, Harper's director of communications, declined to comment on the report and would not say whether Harper or his wife were home at the time of the incident.

The legal drinking age in Ontario is 19.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New York. NYPD's Twitter public-relations campaign prompts brutal backlash

This photo is among many posted in response to an NYPD request for users to share pictures of themselves posing with officers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The largest police department in the U.S. learned the hard way that there are legions online devoted to short-circuiting public relations campaigns — in this case, the NYPD's Twitter invitation to people to post feel-good photos of themselves posing with New York's Finest.

What #myNYPD got instead was a montage of hundreds of news images of baton-wielding cops arresting protesters, pulling suspects by the hair, unleashing pepper spray and taking down a bloodied 84-year-old man for jaywalking.

It was a mistake of epic proportions, with the hashtag among the most-trafficked in the world Tuesday, creating a public relations nightmare for a new NYPD leadership intent on creating a more community friendly force.

The #myNYPD traffic was holding steady on Wednesday, but the dialogue had shifted from mockery of the NYPD to an analysis of what went wrong, including the tweet "Social Media 101: Be careful what you ask for."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Island

6.7-magnitude earthquake hits 88 km south of Port Hardy

Glass rattled, buildings swayed, but no damage was reported after a magnitude 6.7 earthquake hit off the coast of Port Hardy in northern Vancouver Island Wednesday night.

The U.S. Geological Survey says the quake was about 88 kilometres south of Port Hardy in the Pacific Ocean, and was at a depth of 10 kilometres. The agency also said two more earthquakes followed with magnitudes of 5.0 and 4.2.

Emergency Management B.C. said that there was no tsunami warning for the West Coast, and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said a destructive Pacific-wide tsunami is not expected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rebels claim Syrian forces used chlorine gas

Children are seen receiving oxygen in Kfar Zeita, a rebel-held village in Hama province north of Damascus. SHAAM NEWS NETWORK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proof? Activists have posted videos online depicting pale-faced people coughing and gasping for breath

Syrian government forces have attacked rebel-held areas with poisonous chlorine gas in recent weeks and months, leaving men, women and children coughing, choking and gasping for breath, according to Associated Press interviews with more than a dozen activists, medics and residents on the opposition side.

Syria flatly denied the allegations, which have not been confirmed by any foreign country or international organization.

Witnesses near Damascus and in a central rebel-held village told the Associated Press of dozens of cases of choking, fainting and other afflictions from inhaling fumes that some said were yellowish and smelled like chlorine cleanser. Some of those interviewed said they believe the gas was responsible for at least two deaths.

They said the fumes came from hand grenades and helicopter-dropped "barrel bombs," which are crude containers packed with explosives and shrapnel.

Activists have posted videos similar, though on a far smaller scale, to those from last August's chemical weapons attack near Damascus that killed hundreds of people and nearly triggered U.S. airstrikes against Syria. The new footage depicts pale-faced men, women and children coughing and gasping at field hospitals.

It's an accusation that carries high stakes, and the Syrian opposition has an interest in pushing such claims in hopes of spurring the world to take stern action against Assad, who faces a Sunday deadline for handing over all his chemical weapons for destruction.

Chlorine has a multitude of ordinary civilian uses, including laundry bleach and swimming-pool disinfectant. But in high concentrations, it can attack the lungs and asphyxiate victims.

Syria's use of chlorine-filled bombs, if confirmed, would be a violation of the chemical weapons treaty that Assad's government signed last year as part of a deal to hand over its stockpile.

On Wednesday, Syria's UN Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari said his government categorically denied the use of chlorine gas. Ja'afari further disputed that chlorine gas could be categorized as a chemical weapon, saying "it is a mundane substance used for bleaching clothes in the laundry or disinfecting swimming pools."

On Sunday, French President Francois Hollande told Europe 1 radio station there were "elements" suggesting recent use of chemical weapons, but no proof.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Market Minute

DOLLAR 90.65¢ (-0.03¢)

TSX 14,533.39 (-22.58)

OIL $101.44 US (-$0.31)

GOLD $1,284.60 (+$3.50)

Natural gas: $4.73 US (-$0.02)
Dow Jones: 16,501.65 (-12.72)

Google Street View offers new view for you

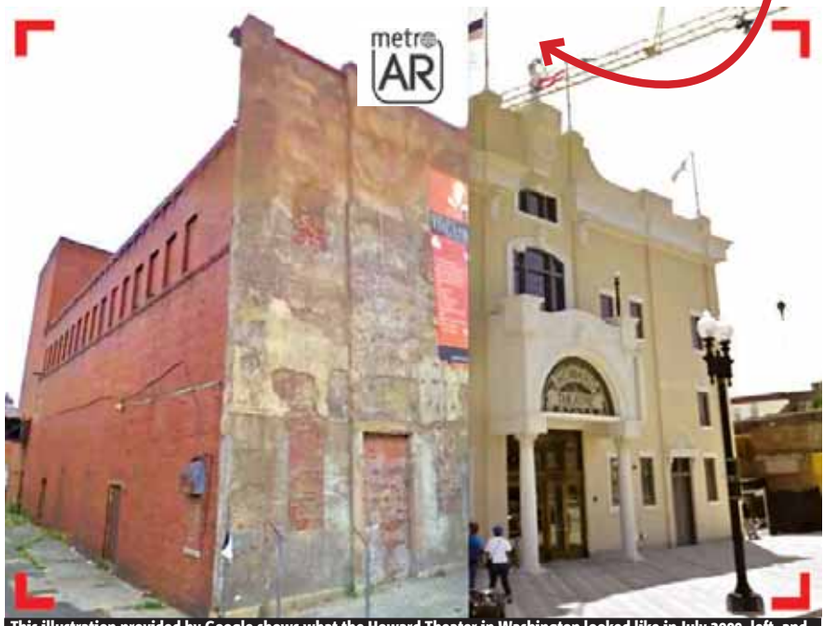
Ch-ch-changes.
See what Saskatoon used to look like

Trips down memory lane are now available on Google's digital maps.

The new twist on time travel debuted Wednesday as part of the Street View feature in Google Maps, a navigational tool that attracts more than one billion visitors each month. Street View snapshots will now include an option to see what neighbourhoods and landmarks looked like at different periods in the last seven years, as Google Inc. has been dispatching camera-toting cars to take street-level pictures for its maps.

Even though the photos only date back to 2007, some of them illustrate dramatic changes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This illustration provided by Google shows what the Howard Theater in Washington looked like in July 2009, left, and after renovation in May 2012, right. GOOGLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WE'RE ANGRY TAXPAYERS, SORT OF

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

If I didn't know any better, I'd say The Angry Taxpayer is a myth.

Indirect evidence tells me they exist. They are the power source for AM radio, the fertile soil of Ford Nation, the engine that keeps the Internet's comments sections humming.

But if I've met more than one or two Angry Taxpayers during my entire life then they've hid it well.

There's that one guy who holds court in every greasy spoon I've ever eaten in, but I think he might be the same guy doing a nationwide tour.

It's called "I'll Tell Ya One Thing" and it owes some of its sense of variation to Nickelback. I'm not suggesting there's a human being alive who likes paying taxes.

But people who "hate" their taxes hate them in the same way they hate doing laundry or taking off a Band-Aid. It's a chore worthy of sighs, not an abomination worthy of a Hulk Smash.

Yet I've always accepted that the public is like the bearded guy in 300, screaming, "WE ARE TAXPAYERS!!!" before kicking a public servant into a bottomless hole representing the deficit.

Only deciding to write a column about tax time made me think about it long enough to realize that just about everybody I know would've told the guy standing near the hole that he should be careful and then lobbied their city council for a guardrail or a sign that says WARNING: HOLE.

Frankly, I've heard more outrage from friends and co-workers about disappointing episodes of The Walking Dead than I have about Canadian taxes.

Even when there's a spending scandal, it's mostly partisan reflex — outrage if your personal bad guys are in office, an acceptable slip-up if you think the good guys are in charge. I've given this some thought as I prepare my own taxes — glumly, not angrily.

Why do we accept our taxes more passively than the stereotypes imply? Is it because most of us have had some ailment covered by universal health care, and have thus decided that lower take-home pay is worth the joy of knowing, for instance, that the neighbour you despise helped pay for your mole removal?

Is it that we realize even the worst scandal imaginable (e.g., a fake lake built for Rob Ford late-night parties in the middle of the Senate) only costs us about five cents a day?

Is it that we know if we actually had the money we'd waste it on lottery tickets and the new Johnny Depp film?

Or is it just that I live a blinkered existence and am oblivious to the seething rage of the Common Man?

I know it might be the last one, so I've been talking to people to get a sense of their rage.

Apparently the finale episode of How I Met Your Mother was really bad. Won't someone think of the children?

ZOOM

It's a scene of terror

KAREN LUNNEY/SOLENT NEWS

Wildebeest take on gruelling trek

Thrashing wildly in the water, thousands of wildebeest battle against each other to cross a powerful river. The scene of sheer panic among the animals in Kenya's Mara River — just north of the border with Tanzania — is part of the largest animal movement in the 21st century, popularly known as the Great Migration.

The herd's panic is depicted in the eyes of the wildebeest. The photographer likens the stare of this animal to Dante's Inferno in epic poem The Divine Comedy. **METRO**

Behind the lens

- **Captured by:** Karen Lunney, from Brisbane, Australia.
- **Accompanied with:** Her husband and guide, who spotted a vantage point for the sight.
- **Quoted:** "Perhaps very foolhardy, we grabbed cameras and made our way by foot through the bush to the river's edge. We watched as wildebeest reached our side of the river but struggled to find an easy way up to freedom."

Number of travellers

1.5M

wildebeest — accompanied by 300,000 zebra — make their long trek from Tanzania's Serengeti Plains, further north to Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve. The herds of animals make the yearly, 2,900-kilometre journey in a desperate search for food and water. Some 250,000 wildebeest perish every year while taking on the arduous African odyssey.

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Robot army amazes

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

Every now and again, a nifty technology company unveils a demo video of a robot snake or a robot cheetah or some such thing, and they're all very cool. But then the initial dazzlement fades and you're left with the vision of being chased through backyards and alleys by herds of them.

Same goes for these critters from SRI International. The near limitless possibilities of a tiny, highly co-ordinated workforce capable of small scale manufacture is amazing. But then comes the realization that this is more or less a robot ant army. What could go wrong?

(Via SRI International on YouTube)

SCREENGRAB

metro

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SCENE 2

Play has more in store than candy and lottery tickets

Corner shop character study. Kim's Convenience offers up fun and food for thought

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

The corner store: If you're of a certain age, you'll remember it. After all, corner stores were once as plentiful as the cut-offs-clad kids who congregated outside, straddling BMX bikes while sucking giant Freezies.

Those were the days, my friends. We thought they'd never end.

But they did. For us, and for the mostly immigrant families who ran the stores.

Enter (door chime) Kim's Convenience: the debut play by Ins Choi, set in a convenience store in Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood.

Mr. Kim, the store's Korean owner, struggles with changing times and the chasm between him and his first-generation Canadian kids.

But there's plenty of love and laughter, too. Originally staged at the 2011 Toronto Fringe Festival where it won the New Play Contest and the Patron's Pick Award, it had a successful 2012 run at Soulpepper, receiving the Toronto Theatre Critics' Award for Best new Canadian Play, which led to a nine-city, national tour.

"Back in 2011, Ins and I used to half-joke about the 'What ifs?'" says Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, the actor who plays Mr. Kim in the production. "What if the show was a critical success and it went on a national tour?

"In every city, the play continues to grow in the most amazing ways.

"It remains an absolute joy to perform. We have all become family through this show."

Kim's Convenience stars Choi, Lee, Chantelle Han, Jane Luk and Andre Sills.

The play starts tonight and runs until May 24 at the Arts Club Theatre Company's Granville Island Stage.

Tickets start at $29.

More information can be found at artsclub.com.

Quoted

"It remains an absolute joy to perform. We have all become family through this show."

Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, actor who plays Mr. Kim in Kim's Convenience

Chantelle Han, Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, Jane Luk and Ins Choi star in Kim's Convenience, which runs at Arts Club's Granville Island Stage. CONTRIBUTED

Canadian Film Day

- **That's right, kids — Apr. 29 (Tuesday) is Canadian Film Day. Which means it's a perfect day to see a Canadian film.**
- Check out this quartet of Canadian ocean shorts — Reaching Blue, Twenty-Eight Feet, Well Fished, and The Questions We Ask — at Cinematheque (1131 Howe St.). Starts at 7 p.m. Tickets $10 (plus service fee). Visit oceannetworks.ca, or canadianfilmday.ca for more information.

Edie Falco and James Gandolfini appear in one of the last episodes of the hit HBO dramatic series The Sopranos, one of several shows that will be available through Amazon Prime. CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

Amazon Prime and HBO team up to stream shows

Online content. New deal will make many classic television series available to members of Amazon service

Fans of classic HBO shows like The Sopranos and The Wire will soon have access to those series and more through Amazon Prime in the first online streaming deal signed by the cable network.

Starting on May 21, Amazon Prime members — who pay $99 US a year for streaming entertainment, two-day shipping and other perks — will also have access to Six Feet Under, Big Love, as well as early seasons of Boardwalk Empire and True Blood. Past seasons of newer shows such as Girls, The Newsroom and Veep will also become available throughout the multi-year deal, about three years after airing on HBO.

Original movies including Too Big to Fail and Game Change will also become available, as will original comedy specials from Lewis Black, Louis C.K., and Bill Maher.

There was no mention of Game of Thrones, one of the most pirated shows in history.

The exclusive HBO deal is a big win for Amazon, which is competing with Netflix and Hulu for streaming viewers as more people cut the cord on cable services. Time Warner, which owns HBO, has long seen Netflix as a threat to HBO and has steadfastly refused to license even its old shows to the company for streaming.

Netflix announced its first price hike in three years this week to help pay for more original programming, such as House of Cards. Shares of Netflix dropped nearly four per cent Wednesday following the announcement.

Amazon and HBO did not disclose the financial terms of the deal, nor its duration.

HBO Go, the network's streaming service that's currently only available to subscribers, will also be offered on Amazon's new streaming device, Fire TV, likely by the end of the year. The $99 device streams online video, music and other content to televisions, competing with the likes of Apple Inc. and Roku.

The deal "positions Prime Instant Video as a viable competitor and potentially more appealing alternative to Netflix," said Wedbush analyst Michael Pachter. "Through the HBO deal, in addition to its own original content, Amazon has the potential to offer close to 70 different series that we believe HBO owns outright, with multiple seasons available for the more successful shows. In comparison, we believe that Netflix's original series figure is closer to 10, with up to only two seasons available."

Glenn Whitehead, executive vice-president of business and legal affairs at HBO, said that the company has always wanted to capitalize on its position as owners of its original programming.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Battle for broadcasting

The Amazon-HBO deal comes during the same week that TV broadcasters are facing off at the U.S. Supreme Court with TV-over-the-Internet provider Aereo, which offers live broadcast television for a monthly fee.

A smile from mouse ear to mouse ear.

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Blame Frankenstein, not the monster

Super Duper Alice Cooper. Doc shows how singer had to admit he was the addict — not his sinister alter ego

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Super Duper Alice Cooper documents how a preacher's son named Vincent Furnier became a rock star named after a 17th century witch. CONTRIBUTED

Alice Cooper's theatrical brand of rock 'n' roll has been horrifying audiences for five decades.

Onstage, the kohl-eyed singer of School's Out and No More Mister Nice Guy is the stuff of nightmares.

His grotesque Grand-Guignol reputation was cemented when he was accused of biting the head off a chicken and drinking its blood during the Toronto Rock 'n' Roll Revival concert in September 1969.

A new movie, Super Duper Alice Cooper, details how Vincent Furnier, a preacher's son from Arizona, morphed into a baby-doll-butchering rock star who found fame under the name of a 17th century witch.

It also unveils the truth about the "poultry incident."

According to the film, it was during the climax of Cooper's wild set that a chicken somehow made its way onstage and Alice — thinking the bird could fly, threw it into the air — expecting it to soar into the sky.

Instead it dropped like a stone into the audience who promptly tore it apart. The next day newspapers reported a sensational version of the story, one that painted Cooper as a chicken-killing degenerate, giving the band their best publicity to date and Alice an idea.

"That was the moment I realized the audience really needed a villain," says Cooper.

"They wanted so much for Alice to be the guy who killed that chicken. Nobody else in rock 'n' roll would have done that except this really creepy guy up there. It clicked in my head that I needed to make this Alice character a definitive Moriarty. When that happened, I saw what the audience wanted.

"I knew I could develop this guy into something that is really going to be fun to play."

For the next 15 years he played Alice to the hilt, on stage and off. It wasn't until a stint in rehab made him reassess his priorities and understand that Alice the character didn't need to exist anywhere except on stage.

"If that grey area would have cleared up and I could have put Alice in his proper place," he says, "it would have been a lot easier.

"But like anything else, when you're a creative character, you always take the hard road. I didn't realize that Alice was not the problem. It was Dr. Frankenstein that was the problem, not the monster. Alice never drank on stage.

"Alice never did drugs on stage. It was the creator of the monster that had the big problem."

These days, at age 66, Cooper is still going strong. He remains a wild man on stage with a new tour and album in the works.

"I still love the fact that people expect a show," he says, "and they get more than there were expecting every time."

Quoted

"I didn't realize that Alice was not the problem. It was Dr. Frankenstein that was the problem, not the monster."

Alice Cooper on coming to the realization that his villainous Alice Cooper character didn't have to exist anywhere else except on stage

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Lupita Nyong'o ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Feast your eyes on the world's Most Beautiful human

Congratulations to Lupita Nyong'o, who has been officially named the Most Beautiful human on the face of planet Earth by People magazine. Nyong'o rocketed to fame in the role of Patsy in 12 Years a Slave, for which she won an Oscar.

Growing up surrounded by Western images of attractiveness made it difficult to see herself as beautiful, she says. "Light skin and long, flowing, straight hair," she told People. "Subconsciously you start to appreciate those things more than what you possess."

Nyong'o, who was born in Mexico and grew up in Kenya, experimented extensively with her look as a teen, even shaving her head at one point. But now she craves simplicity: "I have been called beautiful with not one drop of makeup on," she says. "And also before I comb my hair or put on a pretty dress. Happiness is the most important thing."

This is the third time that People has named a black woman its Most Beautiful since beginning the tradition. Previous honourees include Halle Berry in 2003 and Beyoncé in 2012.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Maybe Laura and Tom would date... if they ever met...

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

Laura Prepon is laughing off rumours that she's dating fellow Scientologist Tom Cruise. "I'm flattered because I think he's hot, so I'm like, 'Oh, that's nice.' And apparently he's very gentlemanly with me," the Orange is the New Black star joked with the Daily Beast during an interview.

"Apparently we get along great and he knows that I have a favourite bottle of wine that I didn't even know I had." Prepon expressed her further disappointment with the tabloid reports during an interview with SheKnows.com, calling the story "false" for the record. "Where are they getting this stuff? It's unbelievable to me," she said.

"Apparently, I'm dating Tom Cruise right now and apparently, he doesn't want me doing (Orange is the New Black) because I portray a lesbian and I'm a Scientologist."

And how does she know for sure that she's not dating Cruise? Because Prepon has never formally met him, which is a tough obstacle to overcome in a relationship.

Twitter

@MarkRuffalo
Hello to all the people all over the world, and to the astronauts far out in space, and people in airplanes and boats!

@KellyOsbourne
I can't believe I started work at 2am today and don't feel like I hate my life! Maybe I'm a morning person after all or I just love working!

@rosemcgowan
My left eye has been twitching for 2 weeks now. Any remedies?

Lindsay Lohan

Lohan reveals miscarriage, ex-beaus deny culpability

Lindsay Lohan dropped a bombshell during the finale of her Oprah Winfrey-produced reality show, claiming she'd had a miscarriage while filming the series — and now her ex-boyfriends are scrambling to clear their names, according to Radar Online. Sources close to Matt Nordgren says the reality star was blindsided by the news. "Lindsay never mentioned anything about it to him," a source close to Nordgren says. "He was shocked to hear about it." And 18-year-old Ralph Lauren model Morgan O'Connor, who had a dalliance with Lohan last fall and made a brief appearance on her reality series, is making it clear to friends he had nothing to do with the shocking news. "Morgan always said Lindsay was crazy and he was afraid she would do something really stupid to get him in trouble," a source says.

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LIFE 3

PLUS HOMES

Drop the sweats and suit up

A regal revolution. The Brooklyn Circus founder explains why he's 'shifting and changing' attitudes toward the American uniform

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Ouigi Theodore is teaching a generation of gentlemen how to take a little more pride in their appearance. OSUKE / METRO

Brooklyn Circus's garments offer classic esthetics and antique motifs while upholding the pillars of modern design. TOM VAN SCHELVEN / METRO

Ouigi Theodore, the founder of fashion label The Brooklyn Circus, is a man on a mission. What started as a manifesto to get Americans out of saggy jeans and sneakers has gone from the streets of Brooklyn to the style capitals of the world. It's as much to do with the charisma of the dapper dresser known as 'the Bearded Man' as the effect of global tastemaking via social media. The 38-year-old refers to the phenomenon as the 'global village'. It's an idea that's at the heart of label BKc — the modern incarnation of traditional craftsmanship and old-time dressing — that's woven from the melting pot of U.S. history and culture. He sits down to talk me through his 100-year grand plan and the true meaning of hipsterdom.

You're a dapper chap, so how long does it take you to get ready in the morning?
I'm a uniform guy, so it doesn't take me as long as you want to think. Oddly enough, I would literally wear the same rig for weeks on end — I just adjust with a cardigan or throw in a pop or change the hat.

The beard has been having a moment among hipsters for a few seasons now and you've been sporting yours for years. How do you define the term 'hipster'?
I recently found out that hipster was a term that was used to describe white men during the jazz era who were trying to be black guys and cool jazz cats.

From the Caribbean with care

"We came into America with a certain level of discipline and it was a discipline of self-awareness and presentation and so I kind of married that to my experience."

That's a new one on me. Speaking of style cultures, why do you want to change the American dress code?
American culture has been identified as this super and ultra casual culture. It's really about sweatpants and trainers everyday. But for me, being from Haiti and the Caribbean, there needs to be a balance. We came into America with a certain level of discipline and it was a discipline of self-awareness and presentation and so I kind of married that to my experience. I bring a balance of tailoring and casual style into American sportswear.

You've got a 100-year plan, so how far along with changing the American style culture are you?
It's changing in small pockets internationally. It's not just in the U.S., thanks to the Internet. It's incredible to see something that you think is so local being picked up globally.

Is social media helping you get the word out?
Absolutely, totally. Social media is communication. I think people look at it sometimes as entertainment, when the reality is that the communication aspect precedes entertainment. As much as people are looking to see what's going on and writing LOL on posts, there's a lot of information being flushed through the network.

Do you find design ideas through social media?
Yeah, it's being able to travel the world everyday in small bits. I'm looking at what's happening in London and Japan and it's in real-time.

Why are the Japanese so often the first to discover new trends?
The Japanese have a special way of figuring out and hunting for what's new. It's such a competitive environment that they have to go and seek out the next thing. They love culture and anything that has a vibration or soul to it.

Do you identify with the Japanese pace of working or is it more about brand longevity for you?
Absolutely, totally. I want to be able to run into a vintage store 40, 50 years from now and see our product. It's a cycle: We buy a lot of vintage and we're inspired by it and we design off of it. We have to create something that'll become the vintage of tomorrow.

Trends Report

If it smells good, you would probably want to taste it — but if you know it tastes good, would you want to wear it? Go online to Trends Report to see all the odd fragrances that have been inspired by your favourite foods and desserts.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Stock images via Colourbox.com/Graphic Irene Kuan

The fragrant and the famous

Pine-ing for Armani's new perfume

Ten years after the launch of Armani Code, the Italian luxury brand has presented a new variation on this sophisticated classic, with its woody accords enhanced by notes of citrus and cool mint. Armani Code Ice arrived in stores on April 15th.

Developed by master perfumer Alberto Morillas, the fresh new fragrance stands out for its lemon notes, combined with clary sage and tonka bean. Extracts of Grasse peppermint provide icy freshness.

The flacon maintains its original shape but has taken on a steel grey colour, reflecting the fresh and cool character of the scent. As announced in February, actor Chris Pine (Star Trek, The Ryan Initiative) is the face of the new men's fragrance. The 33-year-old will star in a campaign shot in Los Angeles by Andrew Dominik.

AFP

See that symbol? It means you can scan the photo below with your Metro News app.
Learn how to prepare a steak and avocado sandwich with chef Pati Jinich

What sounds Italian but rules Mexico?

Milanesa de pollo.
Believe it or not, this Italian-sounding recipe is among the country's most popular dishes

This recipe serves six. PENNY DE LOS SANTOS

"The word Milanesa refers to beef, pork, veal, or chicken that has been pounded thin, breaded, and fried until deliciously crisp and golden brown," writes Pati Jinich in her book Pati's Mexican Table. "My addition of tangy crumbled cheese gives the breading an extra layer of flavour, and the pinch of ground chile takes the Milanesas a step beyond traditional versions.

"I could eat Milanesa de pollo every day for the rest of my life. My kids feel the same way: I usually prepare a double or triple batch at a time, store them uncooked in the freezer, and pull them out as needed during the week."

Ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 cup Kellogg's Corn Flakes crumbs or dried bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup finely crumbled queso fresco, Cotija, ricotta salata, or mild feta
- 1/2 tsp ground dried chile, such as piquín, or a Mexican mix, such as Tajín, or to taste
- 1/4 tsp kosher or coarse sea salt, or to taste
- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, pounded thin
- Vegetable oil

1. In a large shallow bowl, whisk together the eggs and milk. Combine the corn flakes with the cheese, chile, and salt and spread on a plate.

2. Dip each chicken breast in the egg mixture, then coat it on both sides with the corn flake mixture, so the whole breast is covered. Set aside on a plate.

3. Heat 1/4 inch of oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium heat until hot but not smoking, 2 to 3 minutes. Add as many chicken breasts as will fit in a single layer, without crowding the pan. If the edges of the Milanesas aren't bubbling in the oil, raise the heat to medium-high. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes on the first side, until golden brown and crisp, then gently flip and repeat on the other side. Remove the Milanesas from the pan and set them on a paper-towel-covered plate and keep warm. Repeat with the remaining chicken pieces, adding more oil if needed. (If you are not serving them immediately, place the Milanesas in a baking dish, without the paper towels, and keep warm in a 250 F oven.) Serve hot. EXCERPTED FROM PATI'S MEXICAN TABLE, © 2013 BY PATI JINICH. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

Mexican flavours in your kitchen

As the host of the PBS series Pati's Mexican Table, Pati Jinich proves that Mexican cooking is quicker and easier than most North Americans think. Now she puts that concept to use in her book of the same name. Surprising in its simplicity and freshness, her recipes aren't overloaded with cheese or heavy sauces. Many specialities in the book Jinich learned from her mom and grandmother, while others are spins on classics. Among the recipes are Sweet and Salty Salmon, Classic Avocado Soup, Mexican Masa Dumplings and more. METRO

HEALTHY HABITS

KEEP YOUR TEETH IN GREAT SHAPE

SHUTTERSTOCK

You have mere seconds to make a first impression and a healthy smile, whiter teeth, and fresh breath are all part of making a good one.

April is Oral Health Month, which means it's a good time to think about all the habits that contribute to a winning smile. The best way to keep your teeth in great shape are: Take care of your overall health, including good oral hygiene; whiten teeth as necessary; and be conscious of keeping your breath fresh.

HEALTHY TEETH

A healthy mouth is part of a healthy body, says Dr. Travis Stork, a practising board-certified emergency medicine physician and an Emmy-nominated national television host.

When you don't take care of your teeth and gums, the results become very noticeable, very quickly — bad breath and stained teeth are hard to miss.

But poor oral hygiene can also lead to a more damaging problem — gingivitis. Over time, gingivitis, which is an inflammation of the gums, can cause gum disease and even loss of teeth.

Of course, you need healthy teeth and gums to eat and enjoy your food. Also, the condition of your teeth and gums can affect the way you feel about yourself too, Stork says.

Factors that affect the health of your teeth:

- Poor oral hygiene;
- Gingivitis;
- Unhealthy diet;
- Underlying health conditions.

HEALTHY SOLUTIONS

Good health comes with a healthy lifestyle, Stork says — stay active, eat healthy, and take care of oral health.

It's most important to reduce the amount of sugar, specifically in your diet, which is one of the main causes of dental problems.

"Cut out as much refined sugars as possible," Stork says. "Instead, enjoy the natural sweetness of fruits."

Oral hygiene is important, too. Brush and floss your teeth and rinse every day. Stork recommends brushing with an electric toothbrush for two minutes twice a day, flossing, and rinsing with an antiseptic mouthwash.

Use Crest Pro-Health Clinical toothpaste, Stork says. It can help prevent and even reverse gingivitis and early stages of gum disease.

Be sure to see your dentist at least twice a year for routine cleaning and a checkup. See your doctor for any health problems, too.

BENEFITS OF A BRIGHT SMILE

Whitening teeth is one of the easiest and most noticeable cosmetic changes you can make today. While whiter teeth brighten your smile, the benefits go much further than that. A beautiful, whiter smile is also good for health and wellness.

For example, looking good gives your self-esteem a boost and that will affect your self-confidence and how you feel about life in general.

Someone with whiter teeth, compared to stained teeth, appears to be friendlier. When people have a bright smile, they tend to show it off more often.

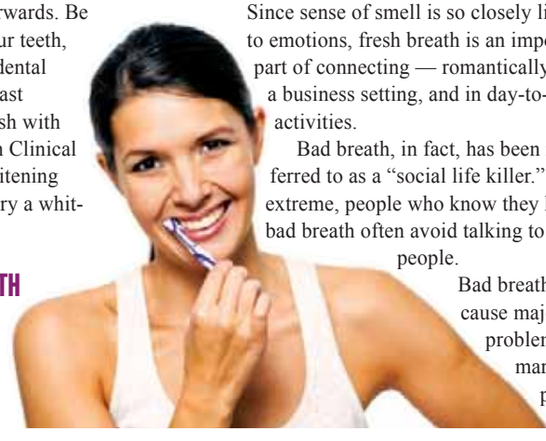
There is an anti-aging effect as well — research has shown that whiter teeth are associated with beauty, health and youth.

Factors that affect the colour of teeth include:

- Genetics — some people are born with teeth that are more yellow than white.
- Age — as a natural part of aging, some people's teeth discolour.
- Smoking — cigarettes leave behind yellowish nicotine stains on teeth; so smoking is just as unhealthy for teeth as it is for the body.
- Coffee, tea and red wine — drinking dark liquids can stain teeth, too.
- Medication — certain medications tend to discolour teeth.
- Oral hygiene — plaque and tartar buildup affect the colour.

SWEET SOLUTIONS FOR FRESH BREATH

For whiter teeth, quit smoking. Talk to your dentist or doctor about any concerns. If you ingest foods that may stain, rinse your mouth afterwards. Be sure to brush your teeth, floss, and use a dental mouthwash at least twice a day. Brush with Crest Pro-Health Clinical toothpaste, a whitening toothpaste, and try a whitening product.



FRESHER BREATH

Morning breath is one thing. But halitosis, or bad breath, on a more regular basis can negatively impact your day-to-day life, and it may signal dental or other health problems. Since sense of smell is so closely linked to emotions, fresh breath is an important part of connecting — romantically, in a business setting, and in day-to-day activities.

Bad breath, in fact, has been referred to as a "social life killer." In the extreme, people who know they have bad breath often avoid talking to other people.

Bad breath can cause major problems for married people, too. Halitosis is one of the main reasons people with partners see their dentist.

Factors that affect bad breath include:

- Poor oral hygiene;
- Strong smelling foods;
- Smoking;
- Health problems.

SWEET SOLUTIONS

Brush and floss at least twice a day to prevent odour-causing bacteria from settling in the mouth. If bad breath is caused by food choices, be sure to rinse your mouth, brush your teeth and rinse with a dental mouthwash after you eat. Talk to your dentist or doctor about your concerns. Be sure to always carry sugar-free gum or mints and mouthwash, too.

I WANT

A **WHITER** SMILE

FOR ALL MY SPOTLIGHT MOMENTS

My wedding day was filled with smiles. To make my smile beautiful, I used my 3D White routine. It gave me a whiter smile and totally prepared me for my moment in the spotlight.

1 FLOSS 2 BRUSH 3 RINSE & WHITEN

MY 3D WHITE™ ROUTINE

Crest® 3D White™ toothpaste fights cavities.

I WANT

A **HEALTHY LOOKING** SMILE

SO I LOOK AS GOOD AS I FEEL

My smile is something I want to share for years to come. To help keep it healthy, I stick to my Pro-Health routine. And, as a result, I always get to show off my healthy smile.

1 FLOSS 2 BRUSH 3 RINSE

MY **PRO-HEALTH**™ ROUTINE

Crest® Pro-Health™ Multi Protection rinse helps prevent and reduce plaque and gingivitis. Crest® Pro-Health™ toothpaste fights cavities, plaque, tartar, gingivitis and tooth sensitivity. To ensure this product is right for you, always read and follow the label.

I WANT

A **FRESHER** SMILE

SO I DON'T MISS THE KISS

My smile is fresh thanks to my Crest + Scope routine. It gives me the confidence to know that I'm ready for that special kiss with that special someone.

1 FLOSS 2 BRUSH 3 RINSE

MY Crest + scope ROUTINE

Crest® Complete toothpaste fights cavities.

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ORAL-16266

Summer chairs do a double take

Made to withstand the outdoor elements, these well-designed chairs know no barriers. Because they're water- and stain-resistant, they're super-durable no matter where you use them. Ideal to add pizzazz outside and hard-wearing enough to withstand rough family living inside, this is what I call great double-duty, all-weather design. Take a seat in style!

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Dine out on red

Pilgrim style gets a lick of colour. Used outside or in, this chair will become a classic wherever it is placed. Union Red Dining Chair with cushion, $275, crateandbarrel.com

A total eucalyptus of the yard

Dare Studio designed rocker with FSC-certified solid eucalyptus wood offers a small footprint and a sculptural quality wherever placed. Outback Rocking Chair, $329, cb2.com

Gehry as the day is long

Designed for indoors or out, Canadian-born Frank Gehry's sculpted and twisted collection adds visual interest wherever it is placed. Frank Gehry Outdoor Collection from $250, designwithinreach.com

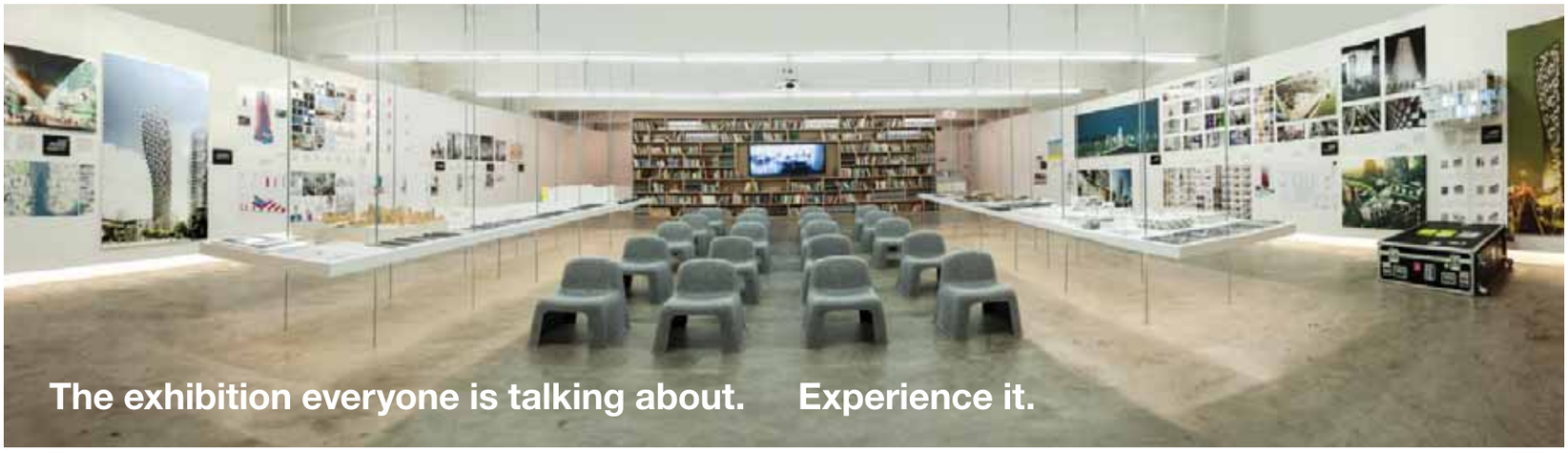
ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Pine for garden or kitchen nook

Paint a fun colour and top with some seat cushions for an instant banquette at the kitchen table. Outside it becomes a place to collect thoughts in the garden. Pine Park Bench, $129, canadiantire.ca

Come to me, my precious metal

The perfect perch for the front foyer or the balcony. Textured Metallic Garden Stool, $90, homesense.ca



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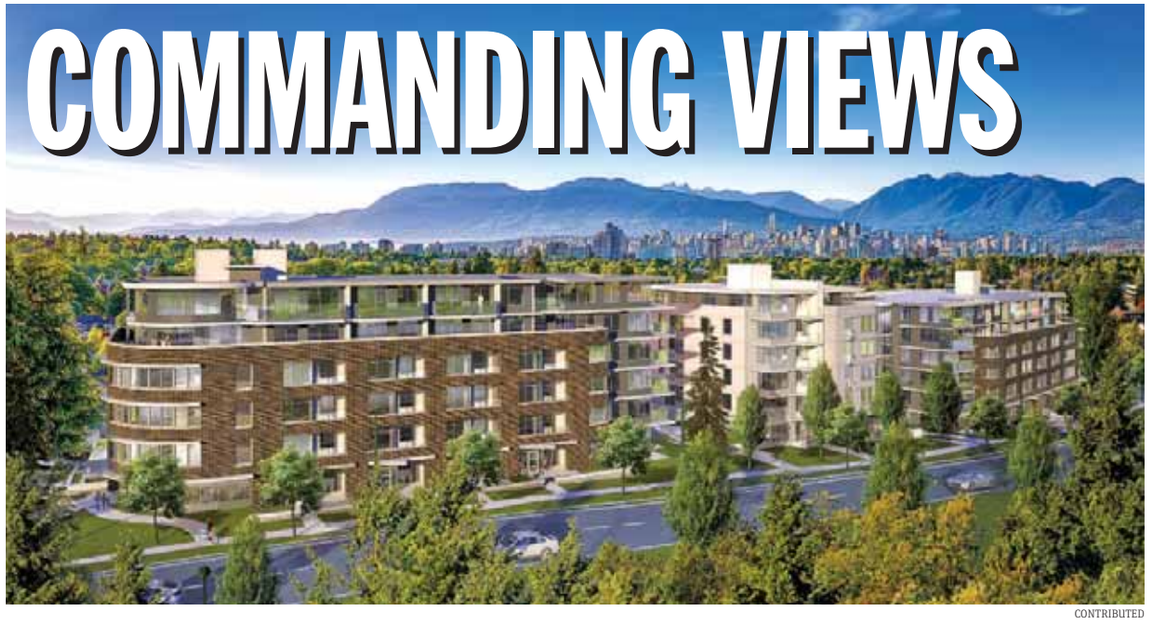
COMMANDING VIEWS



CONTRIBUTED

EMPIRE AT QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK OFFERS THE FULL PACKAGE

Your home is your castle, high above it all. Nowhere is that more true than at Empire at Queen Elizabeth Park, a new condo development adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver.

But the luxury at Empire doesn't end with a commanding view over the city. The interiors are equally as sumptuous, says Sasha Faris, director of marketing for Empire.

"Homes at Empire are the full package. They're beautiful inside and out, designed to deliver form and function for residents."

The development is a multi-family community comprised of three condominium buildings and townhomes, and includes one-, two- and three-bedroom luxury condo homes starting in the mid-$300,000s.

Buyers can customize their LEED® Gold certified quality homes with one of two elegant colour palettes by award-winning BYU Design — light and dark.

Throughout every home, quality is evident underfoot with durable engineered hardwood in the kitchen, bathroom and dining areas, and deep, wool-blend carpet in the bedrooms.

For residents who enjoy entertaining for guests, or simply enjoy preparing a meal for themselves, the kitchens' attractive finishings include quartz countertops with a matching accent backsplash, high-quality Miele appliances, horizontal-grain wood veneer kitchen cabinetry, undermounted sinks and soft-close hardware. Italian crystal lighting creates the perfect centrepiece above the kitchen island.

And whether you are entertaining or enjoying some peace and quiet, noise won't be a problem. The concrete construction and high-performance acoustical underlay between floors reduces sound transfer to make sure residents can enjoy themselves, with or without guests.

The bathrooms at Empire turn the regular morning routine into a personal spa date, with stone-slab countertops, marble tile floors and frameless shower doors.

Central air conditioning provides residents control over their surroundings so they can live in comfort.

The Empire at Queen Elizabeth Park presentation centre is located at 130-555 West 12th Ave. (at City Square Mall). For more information, visit empireqe.com.

AN ESTABLISHED NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Cambie Corridor is a great place to call home, and it's also a sound real estate investment, says Sasha Faris, director of marketing for Empire.

The Cambie Corridor has blossomed into a vivacious neighbourhood since the 2010 Olympic Games, when the Canada Line SkyTrain opened along Cambie Street and opened a rapid transit line from downtown Vancouver to Richmond.

The neighbourhood of Cambie Village includes many eclectic shops, restaurants and entertainment for visitors and residents, Faris says. Highlights include baseball games and the weekly farmers' market at Nat Bailey Stadium and the multifarious shops, restaurants and theatre along Cambie Street.

"Empire provides a rare chance for buyers to purchase a new home in this established neighbourhood," Faris says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

SPRINGTIME IN THE GARDEN

There is no better place to enjoy springtime in Vancouver than at Queen Elizabeth Park.

The beloved park and gardens are gorgeous all year round, but never more so than now, says Sasha Faris, director of marketing for Empire, a new six-storey condo building under development across from the park.

"We couldn't imagine a more picturesque setting for our residents," Faris says. "You can walk out the door at Empire and into this blossoming, fragrant green space."

The park is home to every tree species native to Canada, and the Bloedel Conservatory, located in Queen Elizabeth Park, houses a tropical garden with more than 500 exotic plants and 100 free-flying exotic birds.

The lush gardens at Queen Elizabeth Park are also situated at the highest point in Vancouver, so the area is known for its vistas. It's a feature that also extends to homes at Empire.

The views residents will enjoy through their floor-to-ceiling windows will be unparalleled, Faris says.

"Mountains, water, city panorama, green space — the view out your window can't get much better."

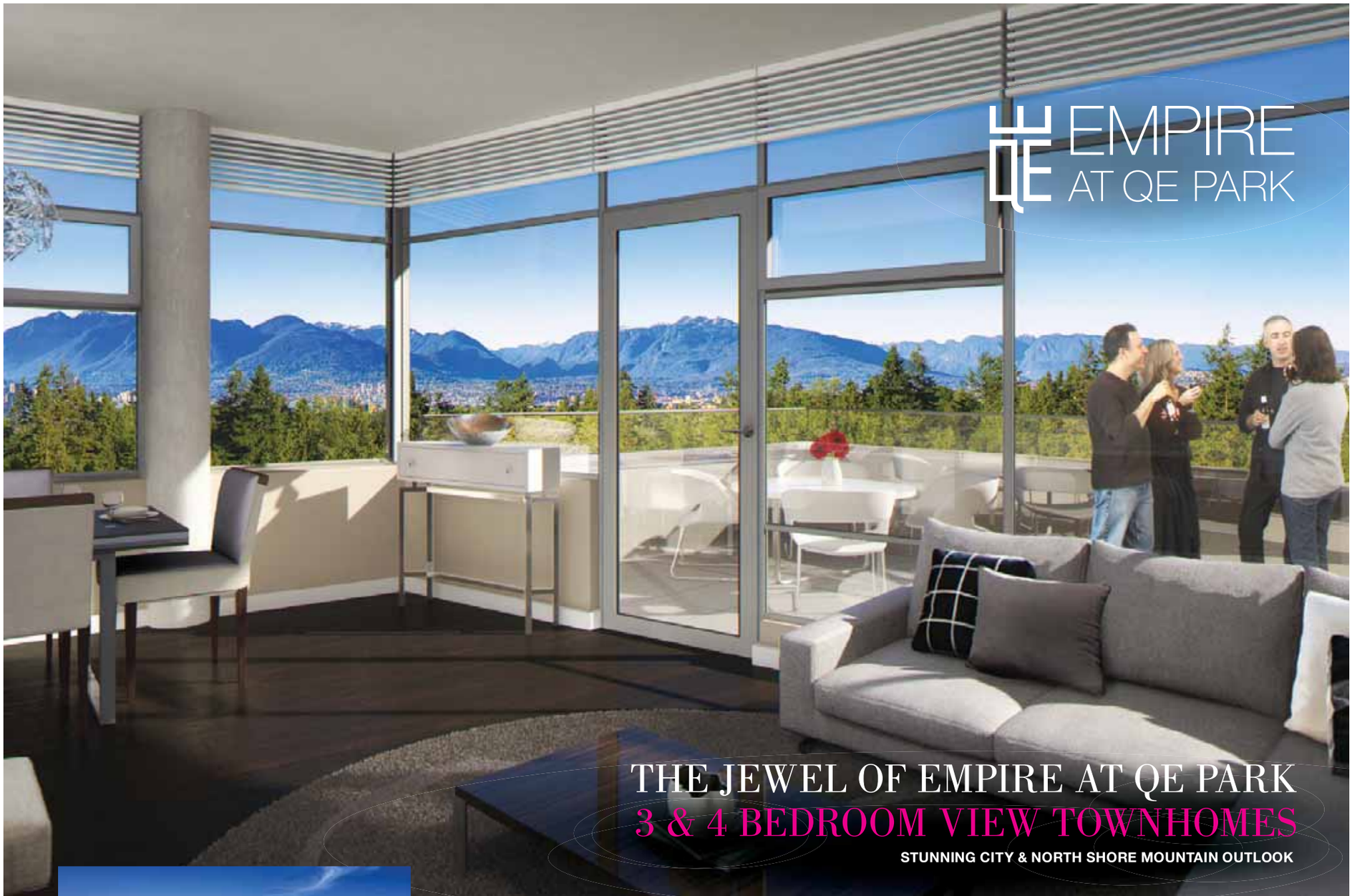
The neighbourhood also presents an opportunity for an active lifestyle. Queen Elizabeth Park's many activities provide hours of entertainment and exercise for individuals, couples and families.

Queen Elizabeth Park Pitch & Putt offers 18 par-3s for golfers of all levels. Free public tennis courts, lawn bowling areas, and courts for roller hockey, basketball and disc hockey offer something for everyone.

Even dogs get their own place to romp — the park has an off-leash area.

When residents want an extra dose of green, more parks and green spaces are located nearby, including Van Dusen Botanical Garden, another one of Vancouver's best gardens.

"Empire at Queen Elizabeth Park provides residents an excellent quality of life right at their doorstep," Faris says.



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MARKETING BY magnum projects ltd.

AFFORDABLE LIVING IN A RANGE OF SIZES

For families looking for a break from the congestion of Vancouver, Burnaby's SOLO District represents an incredible opportunity.

SOLO District is the brainchild of Appia Development, a group founded by Jim Bosa in 1991.

Built as a planned community, with an emphasis on local restaurants and home-grown businesses, SOLO offers opportunities for everyone.

"It was built on the idea of providing for everyone," says Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager at Appia Development.

Designed by Chris Dikeakos Architects and constructed by Appia Development, the homes feature affordable living in a range of sizes.

"Appia is a family company and part of the Bosa Legacy, so for them the introduction of two- and three-bedroom family-friendly units made sense," Murrell says. "They understand the need for this type of home."

There are four planned residential towers and an office tower, which anchors the second residential tower, as part of the Appia project, with the first two currently under construction.

With homes starting at $296,900 for a 489-square-foot junior one bedroom, the unit sizes vary all the way up to the stunning 1,709-square-foot three-bedroom with loft, two-storey sky villas.

With nearby parks and shops, the ability to stay close to home while accommodating any of your needs is tempting for any prospective owner.

Throw in the ability to live along a major transit route and the development is a gift to families with parents who may work in Vancouver.

For those with younger children, SOLO District is close to three elementary schools, as well as two Montessori preschools and a daycare centre. There are also public spaces and gathering areas at SOLO District. The development is also a stone's throw away from three secondary schools.

With Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake Parks only minutes away, families can stretch their legs or kick around a soccer ball. The Bill Coupland Arena, which offers year-round sporting facilities, is also a stone's throw away.

Truly, the focus is on providing for families.

CONTRIBUTED

AN AIR OF LUXURY AROUND SOLO DISTRICT

Burnaby's first Whole Foods is part of the exciting SOLO District development by Appia Development.

Whole Foods has been a staple of Vancouver's downtown core for years, but the opportunity to open its first store in Burnaby is proving to be a popular decision.

"We were looking at the Whole Foods effect, where wherever they went the area exploded in growth and brought lasting value to the community," says Lisa Murrell, the sales and marketing manager for Appia Development.

Whole Foods and Shoppers Drug Mart are two of the premier tenants of the development and will anchor SOLO District.

"Being able to eat, shop and work all in the same place is a huge benefit," Murrell says.

Office space and shopping on the ground level add to the air of luxury around the development.

SOLO District has been designed to focus on providing for any need a resident or visitor should express.

CONTRIBUTED

Stratus, the first tower of the community with Whole Foods as its anchor, is set for completion in 2015.

While Whole Foods and Shoppers Drug Mart are getting the lion's share of attention, residents will also be able to visit dentists, work out and eat locally.

Uncle Fatih's Pizza will be opening when the complex opens, alongside coffee shops and other restaurants.

Bosa Foods and Costco are nearby for any extra shopping residents may need.

If you need to go shopping for clothes or gadgets, Brentwood Town Centre and Metropolis at Metrotown are only a hop, skip and a jump away.

Everything you could think of needing is local and at the fingertips of both residents and visitors.

Restaurants such as Joey Burnaby, Cactus Club and Earls provide residents a chance to eat out without having to worry about dealing with a long commute.

Appia also surveyed buyers on what sort of companies and amenities they would like to see, ensuring residents' needs are placed at the top of the priority list.

PRIME LOCATION

Located along major transit routes is key to any resident who wants to get around without a car.

"It's the convenience factor," says Lisa Murrell, the sales and marketing manager at Appia Development. "People won't have to drive and it increases the green community feel."

There was a concerted effort to make the district a central location in the neighbourhood. With the Canada Line located across Lougheed highway, three blocks from Highway 1 and just steps away from Brentwood Town Centre, SOLO District allows owners to get wherever they want in minutes.

The office component of Phase 2 — Altus — will offer office spaces for those who want to work steps from home with retail and other amenities available at the ground level of the community.

Many owners will receive two years of transit passes when they purchase a condo to help with commuting.

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BUILDING ON THE BOSA LEGACY

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HOMES THAT ARE BUILT TO LAST

For those looking for affordable luxury, the Elliot Street development in New Westminster grabs your attention. Featuring a European-inspired design with Blomberg and Bertazzoni appliances, quartz countertops and energy efficient appliances the idea is to deliver luxury at a price you can afford.

"Every home in the community is spacious and bright — we are really into natural light," says Sammy Tseng, sales manager for Elliot Street.

Elliot Street homes range from 446 square feet for a studio to 1,342 square feet for a two-bedroom-and-den townhouse. Smart, space-saving ideas include a large sliding door to the bedroom that helps create an open living space. A movable kitchen island that can transform into a dining room table or a bar and can be moved out of the way when residents need the extra floor space. The closets at Elliot Street can double as dens, studies, nurseries, or any other option residents choose.

Interior finishings at Elliot Street were also built to last. The tile, laminate floors and stone countertops give the homes a feeling of quality — the wonderful side-effect of durability.

CONTRIBUTED

Recognizing the need for instant access to information in your residence, Elliot Street is utilizing state-of-the-art technology that will make all the information available at your fingertips. Dubbed bazinga!, it's an online system that will store appliance manuals, home information and allow for smooth communication between residents and property managers.

Looking to host a party or move some furniture? No problem as you will be able to reserve a room for any event and reserve elevators for when you want to move.

"Every home will have everything you need right there on your computer, tablet or smartphone," Tseng says.

CONTRIBUTED

LIMITED TIME DEAL AVAILABLE AT ELLIOT STREET

Purchasing a home can be daunting, even for seasoned buyers, but the Censorio Group is offering prospective residents of the Elliot Street development the kind of peace of mind not usually available in the Lower Mainland.

For a limited time only, the Censorio Group is offering a chance to buy with only five per cent of the price as a deposit — and that's just the beginning. Not only can you build the deposit over time, but Censorio will double the deposit by giving buyers another 10 per cent off the purchase price.

This type of offer has never been seen in Vancouver.

"Coming up with the initial five per cent can be hard for a lot of people and this offers a lot more flexibility, a chance to create your deposit over 21 months," says Sammy Tseng, sales manager for Elliot Street. "The entire concept is based around helping homeowners get into the market while they save the deposit.

"For only a few hundred dollars a month, residents will have 15 per cent of their deposit in place by the time they move in. It's making owning a home a lot more affordable for everyone. It's unbelievable. "

The deal applies to any home in the development, from townhouses all the way up to the penthouse. All this is being done by Censorio to showcase its commitment to the development and to provide affordable living in a bustling housing market. The deal has been hugely popular with prospective owners lining up to take part.

Act quickly if you want to get involved because it is only available for a few more lucky homeowners.

LIVE IN THE HEART OF NEW WESTMINSTER

Located in the heart of historic New Westminster St. Mary's District, the Elliot Street condominiums offer residents a chance to immerse themselves in the wonder of the city.

With coffee shops and restaurants only steps away, and located minutes from the Columbia SkyTrain station, Elliot Street is all about making life easy for residents.

"You are in the heart of New Westminster," says Sammy Tseng, sales manager for Elliot Street.

The city of New Westminster is investing in significant new infrastructure, including a new civic centre, upgraded park and public space on the waterfront, and even a new elementary school under development a short distance from Elliot Street.

"You're close enough to the excitement and lights of downtown New Westminster, but you're also removed enough that you can get that quiet night's sleep," Tseng says.

With Queen's Park and Pier Park nearby, residents can stretch their legs and take in the fresh air without having to stray too far from home.

BUILD YOUR 5% DEPOSIT

MONTHLY WHILE WE BUILD YOUR HOME

AND FOR A LIMITED TIME we will ~~MATCH~~ DOUBLE IT!

Right now at Elliot Street, buy with just 5% down, which you can pay monthly while Elliot is under construction! If that isn't enough, for a VERY limited time, we will put another 10% down on your new home!

For less than $600 bucks a month, you could have 15% in the bank by the time your new home is ready to move into! Crazy right?

Visit the presentation centre or call for details, but hurry, it ends soon (really!)

336 Columbia St, New Westminster
Sales Centre open Noon to 5pm daily (closed Fridays)

604.524.8080

PLATINUM
Marketing/Sales by

censorio
Developed by

The developer reserves the right to make changes and modifications. Renderings are artist conception only. Prices and incentive program subject to change without notice. See a Sales Representative for more details. E.& O.E.

ADDITION ADDS UP TO THE PLACE TO BE

CONTRIBUTED

For residents looking to experience all the city has to offer, the Addition on Hornby is the place to be.

Located at Hornby and Helmcken, Addition is in the heart of downtown Vancouver while still maintaining an aura of tranquility.

"We're in a quiet little spot on Hornby Street, but at the same time just steps away from everything," says Nick Prastos, the sales lead for Addition.

With 164 homes starting at $349,000, the opportunity to live in the heart of Vancouver for an affordable price is an opportunity that doesn't come along often.

Steps away from Vancouver's iconic Davie Street, the development is also near Granville Street and the centre of the entertainment district.

For those craving an elegant night at the symphony or to take in a play, both the Orpheum and the Queen Elizabeth Theatre are nearby.

The emphasis is all about giving residents a chance to experience the most Vancouver has to offer.

Designed by Henriquez Partners Architects, which has received Governor General and Lieutenant Governor awards for its work, the development is designed to offer an oasis of calm for residents.

"Everybody wants to come home to a relaxing, tranquil feel and Addition really offers that opportunity," Prastos says.

While other developments are located outside the downtown core and in nearby suburbs, Addition is all about enjoying living in the heart of Vancouver.

"You can go to either side of the water so easily, you're right in the middle of life in Vancouver," Prastos says.

Yaletown is accessible via bike lanes, while five parks, including David Lam Park, are all within walking distance.

With a diverse mix of efficient one-bedroom floor plans to townhouses, the property will get a mix of downsizers to young couples.

Addition is really made for everyone.

The Addition sales centre is located at 1149 Hornby St. in Vancouver and is open daily from noon to 5 p.m. (closed Fridays). For more information, visit additionliving.com

MAKING A COMMITMENT TO CITY'S HERITAGE

CONTRIBUTED

History has an important place in the heart of Kenstone Properties, the company behind the Addition development.

Adjacent to Addition is the Murray Hotel, a heritage building that witnessed Vancouver grow in to the bustling metropolis it is today.

"It's a real interesting building, and in downtown Vancouver it's an anomaly," says Nick Prastos, the sales lead for Addition. "There's not a ton of heritage buildings quite like this."

Designed by architect Ernest Workman, and originally owned by contractor Fred St. Clair Murray, the iconic hotel was completed in 1915 to serve as an apartment hotel for workers during the city's first building boom.

In 1919, Canada's Royal North West Mounted Police leased it as its temporary Vancouver barracks, storing horses inside.

Recognizing that this historic landmark, adjacent to Addition, was worthy of protection, Kenstone Properties is investing more than $1 million to restore the Murray Hotel to its former glory.

"Kenstone Properties is a very conscientious developer and they really want to give back to the city," Prastos says.

The funds will go to restoring the original Edwardian designed façade of the hotel, bringing back European designed class to the area.

The design of Addition by Richard Henriquez drew inspiration from the hotel.

"You'll see in the tones in the brick and the grating, it is all really pulled from that architecture," Prastos says.

Addition's townhouses feature similar brickwork as the hotel. The dark red of the Murray Hotel is reflected in the red metal screens seen on the development. The dark grey arches, meanwhile, become the dark grey brick of the project.

With many Vancouver residents concerned about the future of heritage homes and properties across the city, Kenstone Properties has done what many haven't — made a commitment to preserving the history of the city.

CONTRIBUTED

YOUR OWN STYLE

From studios to townhomes, Addition is the place for flexible luxury.

"It's like a little black dress," says Nick Prastos, sales lead for Addition. "It's as simple as possible and people can dress it up however they want."

Open your lacquered kitchen doors for a few surprises, including a stacking Blomberg washer and dryer with adjustable shelving behind them, or a 24-inch Liebherr refrigerator with a bottom-mount freezer. A stainless steel countertop with textured chrome finish is the first of its kind in Canada. A wall-mounted faucet keeps the design fresh and simple.

The bedroom is intuitively designed to take care of your needs with a pullout pant rack and drawer storage. Tucked away is a vital part of the modern life — a USB outlet to charge your smartphone or tablet.

"You can really make it your own," Prastos says.

164 CITY HOMES STARTING FROM $349,900

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ADDITIONLIVING.COM

PRESENTATION CENTRE LOCATED AT 1149 HORNBY STREET
OPEN DAILY 12-5PM, EXCEPT FRIDAYS.

KENSTONE PROPERTIES

RENNIE MARKETING SYSTEMS

RENDERING AND VIEW ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY. THIS IS NOT AN OFFERING FOR SALE. E.&O.E.

PLANTERS OFFER MANY POSSIBILITIES

There is nothing better than fresh fruits and vegetables straight from the garden to celebrate summer. If you think your place is too small to have your own garden, container gardening will rock your world.

"Edible plants are wonderful and easy to grow on your own, indoors or out," says Maninder Tennessey, co-owner of Atlas Pots, a family-owned retail store specializing in lightweight, contemporary planters. "Planters offer so many possibilities and versatility."

Atlas Pots planters are perfect for indoor or outdoor use, and come in many different materials, including durable, winter-proof planters in commercial-grade fibreglass, resin lines, and fibre clay.

"We work very closely with manufacturers to design and manufacture a refined selection of planters in clean, contemporary designs," Tennessey says. "Quality and esthetic are our top considerations."

Now is the perfect time to start your planter garden, Tennessay says. Carrots, lettuce, tomatoes, squash, herbs, dwarf fruit trees — the possibilities of container gardening are endless.

"My favourite is the raspberry shortcake plant — a miniature raspberry plant," Tennessey says.

"It's heaven to be able to stroll out to your balcony in summer and eat raspberries right off the bush."

Atlas Pots is located at 1087 Churchill Cres., North Vancouver. For more information, visit Atlaspots.com.

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SHUTTERSTOCK

PRE-APPROVED MORTGAGES SAVE TIME

Buying a home is a big step towards a positive goal, but for many it may seem a daunting task. First, you have to find your dream home and once you have found it, you don't want to see it disappear. This is why it's important you come prepared to the negotiation table. Having a mortgage pre-approval is a big step in this direction.

A pre-approval will help your deal go much more smoothly, give you a bit of an advantage and help overcome any potential issue of having a real estate deal go sour.

A pre-approval:

- Will help you accurately gauge what kind of a house you can afford, and measure your qualifications to have it financed;
- Will make sellers and their agents take you more seriously when negotiating with them;
- Can help win a bidding war in the case of a home that is receiving competitive bids.

You will also be able to get a rate guarantee from your lender — if interest rates go up, you can take advantage of the lower rate previously offered in your pre-approval.

A pre-approval costs nothing and you have no obligation when you are pre-approved.

Getting pre-approved in the long run will save you time and energy. If you are considering looking for a home, give the mortgage experts at Community Savings a call at 604-654-2000, or for more information, visit ComSavings.com

Mortgage Sale

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Ask About Our $750 Cash Back!*

Community Savings™ the unions' credit union

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CREATING DREAM HOMES

WITH NUCASA CUSTOM FINISHINGS

A home collects stories — the essence of who we are and our dreams for the future. We shape our homes and our homes shape us. For the past 30 years, Nucasa-milled wood products have helped second and third generations of returning customers create the homes of their dreams.

"Our mantle pieces have been home to generations of family photos, and our hardwood floors have aged gracefully as our customers' families have grown up," says Lucrecia Leon, marketing co-ordinator of Nucasa.

The company, with locations in Burnaby and Richmond, is celebrating its 30th birthday this year.

"It's been very rewarding to have been

CONTRIBUTED

a part of our customers' lives for the past 30 years, helping them transform their houses into homes," Leon says.

Formerly known as the Finishing Touch, Nucasa has established a reputation for exceptional quality, great service and unbeatable value. The company offers one of Canada's largest selections of flooring (including engineered, solid and laminate), moulding, mantels and interior finishing products at manufacture-direct prices.

"We make sure our customers find the right products for them," Leon says.

The company's website and experienced staff offer expert insights to help customers compare products.

"Many of our customers have been with us since we started, and referred their friends and family. We can't thank them enough for that," says Leon.

For more, visit nucasa.com.

TIME TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SASKATCHEWAN'S POTENTIAL

With solid economic foundations, Saskatchewan attracts real estate developers and industry insiders looking for potential growth and opportunity.

"The province's solid economic foundation has allowed unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, and the real estate market has followed suit," says Jaimey Midtdal, spokesperson for the Red Door Venture Group. "The amount of undeveloped land attracts real estate developers who see a bright future and burgeoning economy."

The Saskatchewan-based real estate marketing company teams up with outstanding local developers to deliver high-quality developments across the province.

"We turn good ideas into profit for our customers, while giving them the tools they need," Midtdal says.

With a vast amount of undeveloped land and Saskatchewan's potential for development, the real estate market has opened up new and innovative opportunities for developers and for buyers.

"There is real estate potential as far

SHUTTERSTOCK

as the eye can see in Saskatchewan, and investors should be taking advantage of this potential," Midtdal says.

"We're proud to be a part of the province's growth."

For more about Red Door Venture Group, visit RedDoorVentureGroup.ca.

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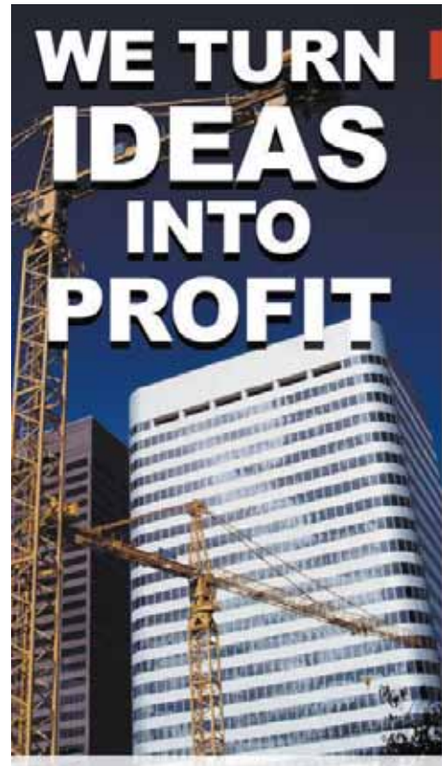


WHO ARE WE?

Red Door Venture Group is a multi-faceted firm dedicated to real estate developers that are looking to make their mark in the booming province of Saskatchewan.

Our commitment is to produce turn-key developments for clients from land acquisition to concept and design to sales. We have an easy all-service system available to our clients.

Whether you are a long-term Saskatchewan developer or a new developer interested in Saskatchewan, we are the ones to turn to.

"The Best Boutique Marketing Group For Developers Within Saskatchewan"

RED DOOR VENTURE GROUP
306.525.6527
www.RedDoorVentureGroup.ca
Suite #110E - 2201 11th Ave
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0J8

SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTOS

CONDOS OFFER A SIMPLER LIFE

There is a lot to be said for living the condo life.

"A lot of people can't afford to live in a single-family home so they look at condos as an option," says Vancouver realtor Daniel Silveira. "There's also less maintenance in a condo and you don't have to tend to a yard and gardening."

The low-maintenance feature is big for empty nesters, while young professionals are seeking affordable proximity to downtown.

In Vancouver, where real estate is at a premium, many buyers can't hope to afford a single-family home. And condos are increasingly becoming the environmentally friendly option, too. Many developers are building LEED-certified energy efficient buildings.

As well, condos, by their very nature, add density downtown so people can walk to work instead of clogging up highways in their vehicles.

"We can't build to the north because we have the mountains, and we can't build to the south because we have the U.S.," Silveira says. "We can technically only build east or up."

In Ottawa, there is currently more supply than demand in the condo market, says realtor Bob Fraser. But condos, like any piece of real estate, are great investments over the long term.

"Right now in Ottawa, prices of condominiums are down," Fraser says. "There's simply more condominiums on the market than buyers to buy them, but that's not going to be a situation that's going to stick around forever, it's going to pick back up again. You have to think long term."

Even though condos provide dynamic urban living, buyers need to make sure the fit is right, Fraser says.

"If you're a person that doesn't do well in a highly-regulated environment then condo life might not be for you," he says.

It's also important to make sure a lawyer reviews the financial situation of the condominium corporation to make sure it is not involved in any lawsuits, and to make sure there are no major alterations planned for the common elements of the condo building.

"Once you become an owner you become a party to all those financial situations. It's absolutely critical that you know what you're getting into."

– Jennifer Taplin

CFL

Lions sign four offensive linemen

The B.C. Lions will have a quartet of new import offensive linemen at next week's mini-camp in Surrey.

The Canadian Football League team announced the signings of Andre Ramsey, Stephon Heyer, Garrett Chisolm and Jason Slowey on Wednesday. All four will take part in next week's workouts, which begin Monday and conclude next Wednesday.

Ramsey, an offensive tackle from Ball State, was at the Lions training camp in Kamloops last year, but did not make the final roster due to a knee injuy suffered in camp.

Heyer spent five seasons in the National Football League, with 35 starts and 61 games played.

The Lions' upcoming mini-camp will include a number of players on the offensive line, receiver, running backs and quarterbacks. The club still has five more free agent tryouts scheduled in various U.S. cities right up until the middle of May.

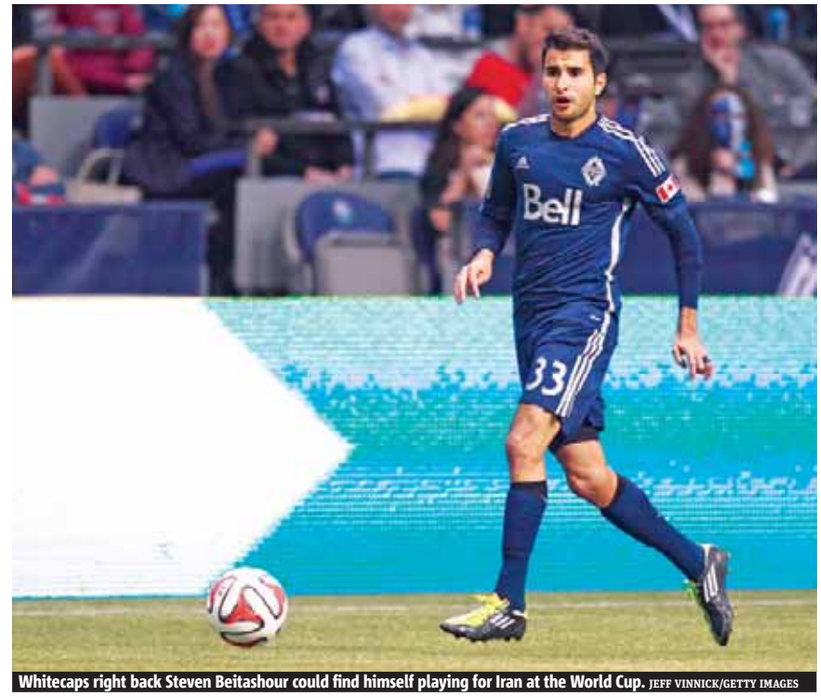
The Lions begin training camp back in Kamloops on June 1. METRO

Stephon Heyer GETTY IMAGES FILE

A case of the World Cup 'goosebumps'

Whitecaps. Steven Beitashour is expected to be named to Iran's team for the summer tournament in Brazil

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca



Whitecaps right back Steven Beitashour could find himself playing for Iran at the World Cup. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

It won't be long now until Steven Beitashour finds out if he will represent Iran at the upcoming 2014 FIFA World Cup. However, the wait continues, and the anticipation grows.

"Just to play in the World Cup, just the opportunity, is unbelievable to think about," he said Tuesday.

"You always hope, you always dream, you always (think) that would be so cool to be there one day. I think it's mostly other people talking about it — 'Oh, you know that's going to be you, hopefully' — and you get the goosebumps thinking about it."

Beitashour, in his first season with the Vancouver Whitecaps after the local Major League Soccer side acquired him in January from the Earthquakes for allocation money, was born in San Jose, Calif., to Iranian parents.

He's been called up in the past to train with the U.S. national team but never played for that side, so he remained eligible to play for Iran if he chose to.

Last fall, the talented right back played three consecutive games, including a pair of starts, for Iran in the Asian Cup qualifiers. Now, will his showing in those matches be enough to cement his position on the squad headed for Brazil?

Beitashour might talk about the dream and the possibility and the opportunity, but he maintains he's not focused on it.

"I think once they announce the roster, it will be on my mind," he said.

Not yet on your mind? How could this be? The World Cup — national pride and millions watching around the globe — is less than two months away.

Quoted

"You always hope, you always dream, you always (think) that would be so cool to be there one day."

Steven Beitashour, on the prospect of playing in the World Cup.

There's a perfectly reasonable explanation: Let the mind wander weeks ahead into the future, and it could have an adverse effect on Beitashour's play with the Whitecaps. And that, in turn, could have an adverse effect on his World Cup chances.

"For me ... I've always been this way, to just not think about so far down the future," admitted the 27-year-old Beitashour, who has started in all seven Whitecaps' regular-season games and played the full 90 minutes in six of those contests.

Canada's Sports HOF makes room for Burke

Sarah Burke THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

She was a freestyle ski pioneer, a perennial X Games winner who championed women's ski halfpipe becoming an Olympic event. Now, Sarah Burke's legacy will live on in Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

Burke, who tragically died at age 29 from a training accident in 2012, headlined the 2014 class named for induction Wednesday.

"I think she'd be pretty overwhelmed, she'd be pretty humbled by the whole thing," Burke's father, Gordon, said following the news conference. "Certainly, she's had a lot of nice things happen to her lately as far as awards go but this is a special one.

"It's for all of Canada. I think she'd be grateful."

Burke, who spent her early years in Barrie, Ont., before moving to Squamish, B.C., was a world champion, a four-time X Games gold medallist and was a driving force in women's ski halfpipe being included at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Also being honoured

Also selected for induction were ski jumper Horst Bulau, cross-country skier Pierre Harvey, hockey player Geraldine Heaney, figure skater Elizabeth Manley and rugby player Gareth Rees.

- Wheelchair basketball pioneer Tim Frick and basketball coach Kathy Shields were named as builders.

4 SPORTS

NBA playoffs

Mavs push back vs. Spurs in Game 2

Monta Ellis scored 21 points and the Dallas Mavericks rolled to a 113-92 victory over San Antonio on Wednesday night, snapping a 10-game skid against the Spurs and evening their first-round series at a game apiece.

Shawn Marion scored 20 points, Dirk Nowitzki added 16, Devin Harris had 18 and Jose Calderon had 12 for Dallas, which never trailed after the opening minutes of the second quarter.

Manu Ginobili had 27 points, Tony Parker added 12 and Tim Duncan 11 for the Spurs.

Dallas didn't relent in Game 2 after blowing a 10-point lead in the final eight minutes of the series opener.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Series tie suits Blue Jackets just fine

NHL playoffs. Foligno's overtime marker gives Columbus its first-ever home playoff victory

Nick Foligno celebrates his game-winning goal with Blue Jackets goalie Sergei Bobrovsky on Wednesday night in Columbus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the dressing room after Brandon Dubinsky's late goal forced overtime, Columbus Blue Jackets forward Nick Foligno half-jokingly said he'd get the winner.

Then he did it.

Dubinsky scored with 22.5 seconds left in regulation and Foligno's wrist shot just inside the blue-line 2:49 into the extra session — from right over the top of the Stanley Cup painted under the ice — gave the upstart Columbus Blue Jackets a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night.

Asked if he had called the goal, Foligno laughed.

"I might have," he said with a wide grin. "I didn't actually think it would work out, but it ended up working. I'm going to thank my lucky stars."

The Blue Jackets overcame a 3-0 deficit for their first home playoff victory in the franchise's 13 seasons, sending the series back to Pittsburgh for Game 5 on Saturday night tied 2-2.

"We lost the game, it's 2-2 now and we have to have a response from our whole group," Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said.

In the three previous games of the series, a team had scored first on the way to a 3-1 lead — and then lost the game. This one was no different.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday night

- **Stars 4, Ducks 2.** Cody Eakin and Alex Goligoski scored 1:22 apart on Dallas's first two shots in the third period and the Stars beat the top-seeded Anaheim Ducks 4-2 on Wednesday in Game 4 to even the series.
- **Blackhawks 4, Blues 3.** Patrick Kane scored his second goal of the game in overtime, and the Chicago Blackhawks beat the St. Louis Blues 4-3 to even their series 2-2.

Birthday bash

Wrigley Field 100

Fittingly, the Chicago Cubs marked Wrigley Field's 100th birthday with a loss.

One out from victory, the Cubs, who have not won a World Series since 1908, allowed the Arizona Diamondbacks to rally for five runs in the ninth inning in a 7-5 loss Wednesday. The beloved ballpark is the second-oldest in the major leagues behind 102-year-old Fenway Park in Boston. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

They were partying like it was 1914. Scan the above image with the Metro News app to see a gallery of Wednesday's festivities. DAVID BANKS/GETTY IMAGES

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Some things are worth worrying about and some are not. Do you know which is which? Chances are money won't mean as much to you over the next 24 hours as it usually does. That's good.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You can't help but make a good impression right now. Just be careful you don't attract so many new friends that you neglect the people in your life who really matter.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You don't need anyone's blessing for what you are planning. All you need is the confidence to begin, and the courage to follow through and finish the job. What are you waiting for? Now's the time.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Your confidence is high and will rise even higher over the next few days. Friendships and group activities are under excellent stars. Get out into the world and see and be seen.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
With the Sun and Mercury moving through the status area of your chart, you will make friends with the right sort of people and there is no telling where that might lead.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You want to take a trip but have no valid reason for travelling. So what? Cosmic activity in the most adventurous area of your chart urges you to let your impulses guide you. You're sure to end up some place that's fun.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Make sure what you wish for is what you truly desire because once it is in your possession you may not be able to give it back. Also, be careful when making promises to friends. They will hold you to them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The planets indicate that you will gain more if you take an easygoing attitude to getting your way. Aim high but don't think you have to force people to give you what you desire.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The cosmic picture is so good that most people will respond positively if you approach them as equals and partners. On the work front, especially, if you smile and ask nicely you'll get everything you need.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You don't have to come on strong to make your point. On the contrary, others will be more receptive to what you say if you say it calmly and and with no hint of a threat.

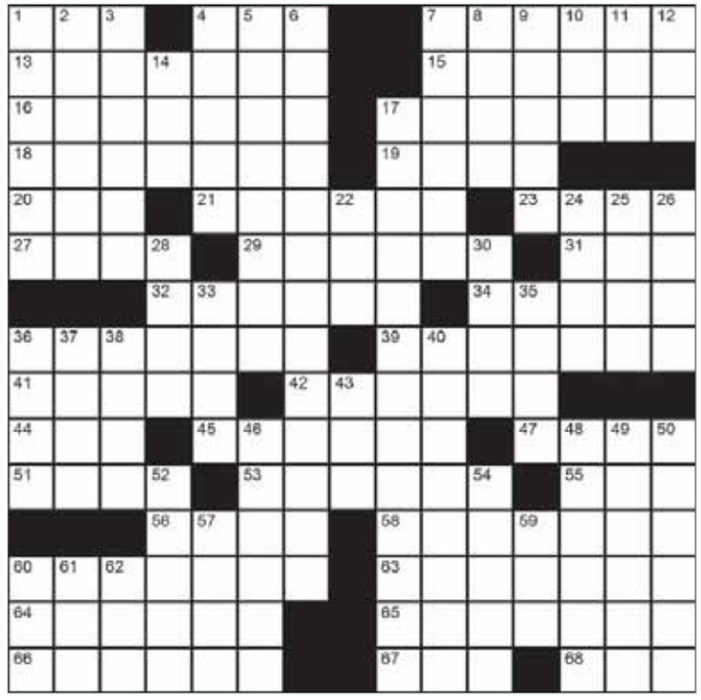
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You get on well with most people but you also need to be aware that there are individuals out there who are so different to you in temperament that it's unlikely you will ever be friends.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you meet socially will attract you romantically but think carefully before you send out signals of love because the planets warn it may not be the right thing to do. Stay friendly — for now. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Extinct bird
4. East Coast ocean, for short
7. Canadian singer/songwriter, Fefe __ (See #64-Across for more!)
13. European country
15. Seldom
16. #6-Down's birthplace in Scotland
17. Nurse's prop
18. Industry work unit
19. "__ la vie!"
20. Flight tower serv.
21. Directs
23. Internet destination
27. "I don't __ _ problem."
29. Nunavut: Chesterfield and Rankin
31. Retro music syllable
32. Century: French
34. Proprietor
36. .38-__ bullet
39. 'The Twilight Saga' installment: 2 wds.
41. Coke competition
42. Skillfully tricked
44. Journal
45. The __ Quintuplets
47. Flippant talk
51. __ decision
53. Sixties supermodel
55. Moviedom's Myrna
56. Important caucus state
58. Edmonton-born actress, __ __ Chong
60. Jason's "Beverly Hills, 90210" role
63. Doing Atkins: 3 wds.
64. New single by #7-Across: "In __ Hands"
65. Eighty: Spanish
66. One of the Gospels-writers, __. __
67. Montreal's plurally 'My'
68. Chicago White __

Down
1. Molten matters
2. Like David Letterman's show: 2 wds.
3. Rodgers & Hart's "Ten Cents _ __"
4. CFL players, e.g.
5. More like a 'Speckled' fish
6. Canadian singer/songwriter of "(You're a) Strange Animal": 2 wds.
7. Least wet
8. Rows
9. Ms. Spears, et al.
10. Ottawa fig.
11. Scratch tickets and more corp. for the prov. between MB and QC
12. Bill 'The Science Guy' __
14. Kyrgyzstan city
17. Film buff's mansion must-have: 2 wds.
22. Kay's follower
24. "This __ laughing matter!": 2 wds.
25. '70s TV cop Lt. Kojak
26. Make money
28. Unchanged: 2 wds.
30. "__, __ good now?" (Things are okay between us, right?)
33. Footnote abbr.
35. Terrorist's arms, commonly
36. Mil. two-stripers
37. "__ Flux" (2005)
38. Sports org. for Canada's Rebecca Lee-Bentham
40. Refinement
43. Prefix to 'lateral'
46. Doug & The Slugs hit: "Making __ __"
48. Mr. Thicke's ...en francais
49. Location of 1976 anti-apartheid protests in South Africa
50. Grammar topic
52. One of Columbus' ships in 1492
54. Not nahs
57. Baltic Sea feeder
59. Prez pre-JFK
60. Guitarist Mr. King's
61. Soak flax
62. $20s-spewing source

Yesterday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	2	6	1		7			3
	4	8						1
9			3					
4	9				1			
	5	7				1	2	
			6				5	4
					3			6
7						5	3	
1			4		6	7	8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	6	3	4	9	2	1	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
3	4	1	2	7	5	9	8	6
8	1	7	5	9	6	4	2	3
2	6	4	8	3	7	1	5	9
5	3	9	4	1	2	8	6	7
1	9	8	7	5	4	6	3	2
6	7	3	9	2	1	5	4	8
4	2	5	6	8	3	7	9	1

Today
12°/6°
Rain
80%

Friday
13°/5°
Showers
40%

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Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

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